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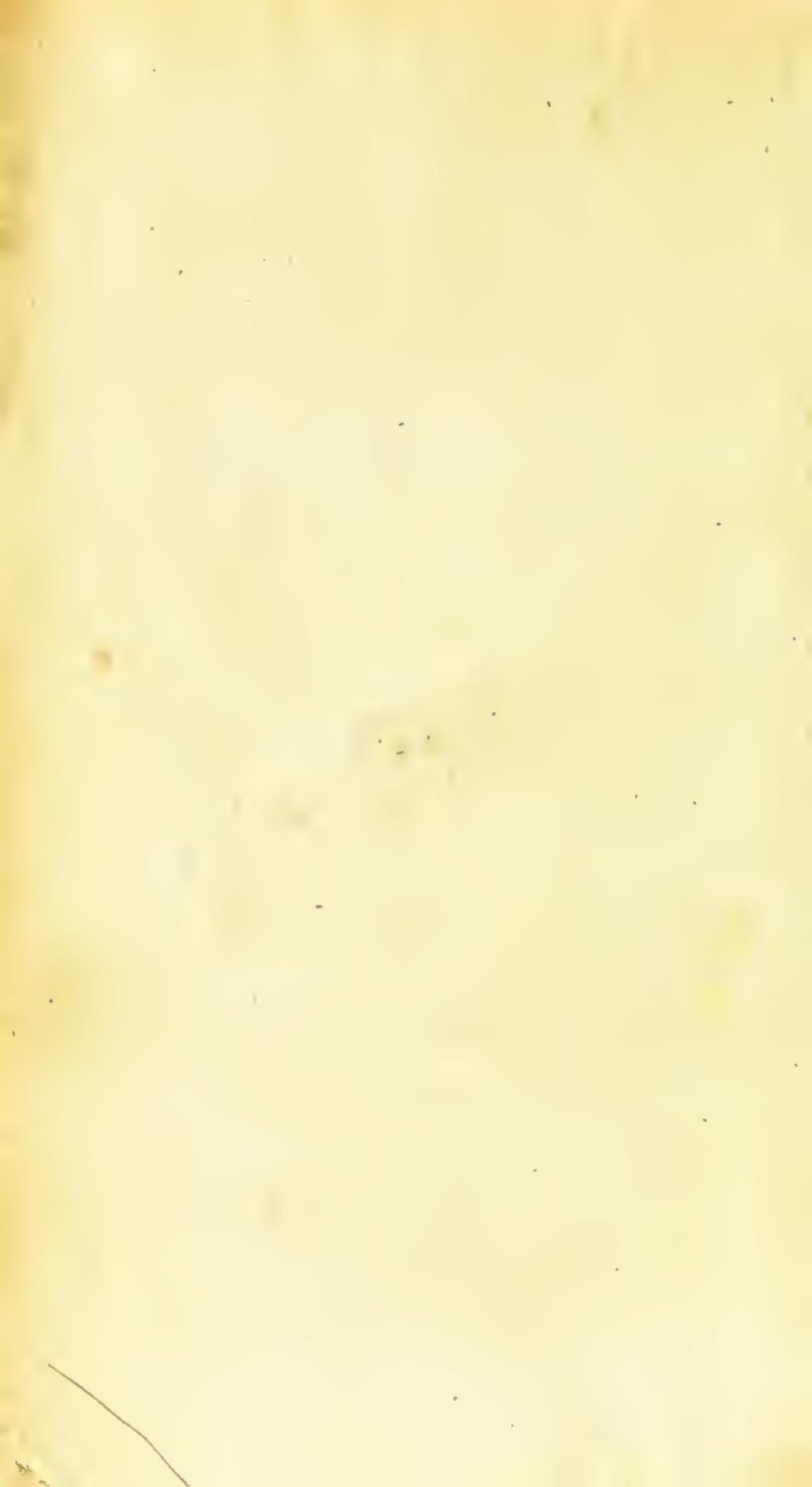
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A Consultation of PHYSICIANS.

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ÆSCULAPIAN SECRETS REVEALED :

OR, FRIENDLY

HINTS AND ADMONITIONS

ADDRESSED TO

GENTLEMEN OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION,

AND THE

Public in General;

CONTAINING

MAXIMS OF INDISPENSABLE CONSEQUENCE; WHICH IF ATTENDED TO,
WILL EFFECTUALLY CONDUCT THE PRACTITIONER, BY THE
MOST SIMPLE AND UNERRING METHOD, TO THE HIGHEST
PINNACLE OF FAME, HONOUR, AND INDEPENDENCE.

BY PETER MAC FLOGG 'EM, Esq.

M.D. F.R.S. L.L.D. and A.S.S.

Fellow and Honorary Associate of all the Medical Societies in
London, &c. &c.

— Ridiculum acri
Fortius ac melius plerumque secat res.
Spectatum admissi risum teneatis amici? — HOR.

LONDON:

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1813.



PREFACE.

FRIENDLY hints and admonitions, quotha indeed! methinks I hear some *smirking smug-faced physician* sarcastically exclaim; poh! poh! absolute nonsense, a mere catchpenny, invented by some needy garret scribbler, and only designed as a *decoy duck* to the unwary. Where can be the *real utility* of more hints or admonitions? Are not the shelves of our libraries already crammed with a sufficient quantum of such idle trash? Is not the press continually teeming with pamphlets and volumes of such stupid rhapsodies? To such a *reasonable* and *liberal* set of queries, my answer is very brief. Yes! I admit the force of your argument, *in the fullest extent and latitude possible*, and yet with the addition of these, I really think and flatter myself that the market will not be overstocked, nor my labour in the cause *entirely thrown away*. It is impossible for

me, without offering violence to common sense, to deny the force of your position: there are, I am well aware, on this, as well as on other subjects, a very copious and ample supply of the article, so far as respects *bulk and quantity*; but the pretensions on which I principally ground my objections to them, is their palpable defect as to *quality*. They may not, my *cher ami*, be inaptly compared to *your brains*, there is certainly a redundancy of the quantity, but the misfortune is, that being also similar in point of confusion and disorder, a mere *chaotic mass*, they are *bona fide*, like your brains of *very little value*.

Here then, gentle reader, allow me to make a very short remark, by the way of caution, which is, that you be not influenced with too great precipitation, by the prejudices and sneers of my friend *Dr. Prig*, but that with a moderate share of candour, you favour me with an impartial reading, and then "*form righteous judgment*," abiding fairly the result of that judgment, in preference to pinning your faith on the sleeve of another.

Ha! ha! ha! What consummate vanity, what insolent confidence must this pedant of a fellow possess, re-echoes *dear Doctor Prig*, to insinuate to the *learned*, that *his* pitiful jargon is the only sensible, instructive, and estimable publication on the subject, he has selected, and that *all* others rank in their true value, as merely *waste paper*. Gently good *Doctor* over the stones, *ho! ho!* gallop on not quite so fast, thou dear, bewitching, penetrating, sapient limb of *Æsculapius*, thou art carried too strongly away by the expansive and illuminated ideas of thy *all powerful intellect*; and as *ab initio*, thy *premises* are wrong, so of necessity equally futile and ridiculous must be thy *conclusions*. It may readily be taken for granted, that an author will look with a partial eye on the bantling to which his feeble efforts have given birth, but in the present instance, I trust you will not discover in *me* that extremity of absurdity and selfishness, as to condemn all other writers, through thick and thin, for the base and sinister purpose of enhancing *the merits of my own work*. No, no, thou *all inspired highly gifted doctor*, whilst I am attempting to be useful

to my professional brethren, far, very far from me be removed such a system of gross *egotism* and illiberal *presumption*; and therefore let me *for once* only request you to bring a little candour in your pocket, ever a most welcome guest, and if the offspring of my humble muse, suit not with your refined and delicate *goût*, I can only exclaim with the poet, “*perituræ parcite chartæ*,” which for *your instruction* I shall thus translate:

“ In pity spare me when I do my best,
To make as much *waste paper* as the rest.”

To proceed with my introductory remarks, I confess it may very fairly be enquired, as there are before the public so many different treatises on the subject in hand, *cui bono*, to what good end or purpose is it, that we should have more foisted on us; particularly as what applies to the relative *moral* and *social* duties of man, which may be found so copiously treated of in the most common-place system of ethics,* or even in the discourses of some of our learned and pious

* See and consult, *Godwin's Political Justice*, *Volney's Ruins of Empires*, *Helvetius* and *Hartley* on Medicine, &c. each of them replete with a most admirable code of *moral duties and obligations*.

divines? To this it is humbly replied, that my *sole motive* for offering to public inspection the present observations, is to endeavour to subscribe my mite of instruction to my brethren in the medical profession, in a more plain, familiar, and conspicuous manner, than is *usually resorted to*, and as treating of points and principles, seldom or ever deemed worthy of the public attention, will, I flatter myself, *repay the reader* for his trouble in the perusal.

I am really of the opinion, however I may appear to savor of *singularity*, that one of the principal reasons why books of this description are not so generally and universally read *as they ought to be*, is, that a dry code of *moral duties*, and that extended to a most *unmerciful* length, on general subjects are frequently too voluminous and uninteresting to excite the requisite patience and curiosity to wade through them. No one, I imagine, in this age of refinement, can be at any loss where to look for a good system of *morality*, when they are now so abundantly supplied from

the press, including those from the days of *Socrates* or *Epictetus*, down to that *climax* of all ethics, *Mr. Godwin's Political Justice*. That this is by all hands observed, must be universally admitted; but though the present subject *must be supposed a priori* to include in it a general attachment to those duties which have a tendency to exhibit man in the most *virtuous and amiable* point of view; still it must be equally apparent, that a *collection* from these, culled with *judgment*, and selected *with care*, as it respects the conduct and advancement of a particular branch of science, and those who are its subjects, must be more palatable, easier digested, and consequently much better adapted to the end proposed.

But again, the reader may, with some propriety enquire, has the author of *these admonitions* the temerity to suppose, that he is equal to *the reforming* any abuses which may *accidentally* have crept into one of the *learned professions*, and these by precedent and established usage, fully

confirmed as the very standard for public guidance and direction? Can he be so lost to modesty as to suppose himself capable of superseding the various able writers who have exercised their pens on this subject before him? Can he idly suppose that the name of a *Gregory*, a *Bell*, and many others of equal importance, are to bend to that of a *Mac Foggem*, an obscure individual in the annals of medicine? Or has he the effrontery to flatter himself, that he has forsooth at length discovered the *grand pabulum*, which hitherto, though unexplored, yet in its application, is calculated to make mankind wiser and better; or that he is more gifted with the powers of persuasion to pursue an undeviating path of honor and rectitude, than others who have preceded him in the same task?

To all such interrogatories as these, and a thousand others of a similar tendency, I answer, no. Pray, therefore, reader, take breath before you ask any more, and suspend the violence of your agitation, whilst I, with all due submission,

I may perhaps be liable to the charge of *arrogance*, in the opinion of some readers, for offering any thing in the shape of dictation or instruction to *gentlemen*, some of them absolutely *grown grey* in the practice of their profession, and who might reasonably have been supposed, already such adepts in all the little winning graces, the amiable, charming, honourable, irresistible manœuvres, as to bid defiance to all attempts at *further improvement*. Whether all these *good gentlemen* stand in this high degree of eminence, I mean not to attempt deciding, but leave that to the judgment of unbiassed spectators. Some of them, I should apprehend, will find these few hints by no means *unprofitable*, nor derogatory to their consequence to peruse them; and they who fancy otherwise, may leave them where they found them, and transfer them to other hands, who may have formed a better opinion of their merit and value. If the *old* will not read them, the *young* who are not so confirmed in long established errors and practices, *probably may*; and for such a purpose was my design commenced

and completed, and these if possessing a liberal mind, will receive my efforts to assist them, with praise and gratitude, bearing in remembrance the old adage, "*salus populi suprema est lex.*"

There is a great number of subjects with which it is absolutely necessary, a medical practitioner should be tolerably acquainted, independent of an intimate knowledge of his profession and he who rests satisfied with the *one*, unassisted by the *other*, will frequently experience the severe mortification of finding himself supplanted by some illiterate but obsequious *emperic*; and as they are of the first moment in furtherance of success, and advancement in life, I trust my time will not be considered as ill bestowed, in pointing them out for the general advantage of my *dear brethren, the doctors.* A man may be an absolute *Æsculapius*, yet if he has not superadded to his qualifications, the greatest of all studies, the *study of mankind*, he has as yet much to learn, before he can be a successful candidate for *fame or interest.* In the following

pages I have attempted to elucidate this position, (how successfully must be submitted to the decision of the reader,) and familiarize him with those attainments, without which, he will very frequently perceive himself eclipsed by *peddants* and *blockheads*.

THE AUTHOR.

ÆSCULAPIAN SECRETS REVEALED,

&c.

Of the Office and Conduct of the Physician.

IT was a very shrewd and pertinent remark once made by the immortal JOHNSON, “that a very interesting book might be written on the subject of physicians;” that is, on their conduct, and the most probable and effectual means of arriving at the summit of their profession; and a more substantial truism was never advanced by *that, or any other* great moralist: for of a truth, it may be said of *the physician*, and that in a very eminent degree, that “the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong,” but that *time and chance* operate on them all. In *almost every other* profession, the success of the party will very materially depend on the proportional quantum of his *knowledge and abilities*; but in general, this rule, like most others, will admit of various exceptions, and to none more palpably so, than in the science *of medicine*; which cannot, I think, but afford my readers very considerable consolation, for were it to be laid down as

a general axiom in logic, that *palmam qui meruit ferat*, what would become of many of our spruce little doctors, who are now lolling in affluence at the expence of public credulity?

There is a sentiment which I have frequently heard insisted on, by sensible and well-intentioned persons, that in the *army and navy*, merit will make its way, find its level, and obtain a degree of rank and emolument proportionate to the valour and approved good behaviour of the party; but to such a position, I make no scruple to enter my most decided negative, as existing only *in theory* unsupported by real fact: for often, indeed, shall we have to deplore the very reverse of this assertion, and become the unwilling and disgusted spectators of *interest* completely superseding talents, bravery and foresight. The ambrosia of *royalty*, is, of itself, very frequently found to be *fully adequate* to the deficiency of skill, of integrity, and of humanity: this is a self-evident fact, demonstrable to every one, not pre-determined to resist the evidence of his senses, when he reluctantly observes some of the most *lucrative* and *honourable* situations in both the *military and naval* departments of government conferred on and monopolized by persons who have no other qualifications to recommend them, but that of being the *puny offspring* of some miserable and impoverished sprig of *nobility*, with no other passport to such a preference, than an obsequious servility *at court*; or a willing slave to the beck and nod of *those in power*.

In the prosecution of *trade* and *commerce*, though wealth and respectability are the frequent concomitants of industry, attention, and obliging manners, yet even *these* will not always be invariably and equally successful. In the profession of *the law*, fame, rank, honor, and riches for the most part depend on an ostensible display of splendid talents, and I regret that I am not enabled to add, *honesty and independence*. In the church again, although the good things of *this world*, the *mammon* so much *reprobated* therein, are seldom the lot of the man unconnected with *interest* or *superior influence*; yet, we do *occasionally* find, that the elevation to a *good living*, is sometimes obtained, by genius, learning, and piety: this, however, is but *very rare*. The physician, however, if he even possess the virtues of an angel, the wisdom of a seraph, united to every amiable quality which can render man both useful and respectable, yet we shall most commonly observe, that the learned and ignorant, the moral and the prophane, the philosopher and the pedant, are all of them equally the objects of a *blind fate*, either sharing both fame and riches *indiscriminately*, or ultimately sinking down into the abyss of poverty and neglect.

To account for this peculiarity in the condition of the *medical profession*, it should be recollected, that in almost every other class of society, the advancement of mankind to these objects, is estimated by the *actual* existence and energy of

talent; but in physicians, by the effects of *chance altogether*. In other elevated situations, where *the world* is enabled to scrutinize men's conduct, and form a proper judgment thereon, this, if necessary, can be cleared from any species of obloquy in the broad face of day; but not so with *the physician*, if he cannot even perform miracles, in removing *incurable* diseases, or should a patient die under *his care*, exhausted by *disease*, the *credit* is laid entirely at his door; he is immediately arraigned as a *murderer*, not indeed at the bar of justice or equity, but at a much more powerful and decisive tribunal, even that of *public opnion*, from which commonly there is no appeal; and this will infallibly be the melancholy fact, as long as such barbarous opinions are prevalent for the want of a more general knowledge on medical subjects, but which almost every one supposes himself *fully competent* to decide on. Dulness and ignorance combined with a proper quantum of impudence and assurance, will more commonly assist a physician to make his way through life, and slide into an extensive practice, than the most extensive genius and learning, unaccompanied with these *rare* qualifications; for this reason, that a total ignorance of the *principles* of medicine, seems to pervade all ranks in society. Most men, from an innate inherent principle, are anxiously *attached to life*, and when invaded by dangerous diseases, fly for assistance against the grand object of their terror to any one who has the confidence and arrogance to im-

press them with a belief in their superior skill in the healing art: but men of clear conceptions and profound sense, recoil with contempt at the assumption of such gross *dissimulation* and *imposture*, under an honest conviction, that the science of medicine is, *at best*, but very contracted *at present*, even in its infancy; and, therefore, will not attach that sort of false consequence and efficacy to it, which he will feel convinced it *does not*, nor *cannot* merit.

For the gratification then, as well as consolation of the reader, who, I take for granted, is ardently bent on advancing in his profession, I can, without fear of contradiction, encourage him in his pursuit, by assuring him, that *abilities* will be found a mere *secondary* consideration, provided he has learned cautiously to *conceal* his ignorance, and will *bow and scrape* to every one who has ability to give him a fee. No position on earth can be clearer than this, nor more fully demonstrated when we take a slight view of the *boobies and coxcombs* who daily roll their chariots over the mangled carcasses and slaughtered multitudes of their *quondam* unfortunate patients, while men of study and research can scarcely muster sufficient practice to replace a threadbare coat when out at elbows, or procure the luxury of a *good dinner*. From this fact, it will be readily inferred, that no *superfluous* quantum of *intellect* will be found floating among the *general* bulk of physicians, which should animate a *young* candidate with zeal for the profession; for so very

discouraging is the prospect to men, who make science and genius the first objects of their attachment, that they will frequently in disgust, *retire from the profession altogether*, erase their names from the muster roll of *Warwick-lane adventurers*, and betake themselves to some honest employment, where their *virtues* may be appreciated, and their *talents* considered more beneficial to *themselves* as well as their fellow creatures.

It is impossible that the occurrence of any adventitious circumstance should, under the *present state* of things, be at all adequate to mar your prospects, or blast your hopes, provided you are armed *cap-a-pée* with the *insignia* of office, and have sufficient address to foist yourself on the world as a great and *accomplished physician*. Nothing can operate to impede this object, till mankind have obtained that degree of *light* on medical subjects, on which, at present, they seem totally in *the dark*; for it may be considered next to impossible, that there should be any aberration from this routine of *ignorance and knavery*, till an effectual demand of real knowledge is made among physicians, which from what daily passes before us, is not, for some time at least, very likely to take place.

Till the *simple* principles of medical science become more generally understood, till the mask of the daring and impudent *quack* is in danger of being stripped off, this system of fraud and ignorance, must triumph over *real* skill, the *supposed*

evil must exist, and mankind must continue to be gulled and imposed on by the contemptible common-place gabble, the dull uniformity of the stagnant visage of the pedantic empiric, and from the same fertile source, it will be found, that the physician and the quack, the *knav*e and the *man of honour*, under the present state of public opinion, all stand on the same ground, without distinction.

As long then as matters remain in the *present* hopeful state, all is safe; but when the veil of mystery and chicanery is once lifted up, and the boasting pretender stands before the world, arrayed in his *real* garb, then indeed *you* may have some cause to fear and tremble, because then you may expect that the sunshine of public favour being directed in its meridian blaze towards genius and learning, blockheads of *every* description, from the titled doctor down to the manufacturer of poisonous nostrums, must retire and fall back, from the foremost ranks of medical influence, and abashed, skulk into the recesses of darkness and insignificance, and resign the avenues to the *Aesculapian temple*, of fame and emolument, to be occupied by men of real merit and integrity.

In presenting these few preliminary hints, though not *immediately* constituting a part of my subject, let me not be misunderstood, as wishing to create any degree of alarm in delicate and susceptible minds, on a subject not probable *speedily* to take place. Physicians are by no means

expected to possess the mighty and comprehensive minds of statesmen, lawyers, or philosophers; nor indeed would it be desirable, as the former *ruin your pocket*, but the latter only your *health*, therefore, a common share of understanding united to moderate attainments, will be quite sufficient to enable you to become acquainted with all that is yet known on the science of medicine, and discharge your professional duties with profit to *yourself*, and satisfaction to *others*. It is not the *real use* of lofty exertions and laborious research which will prove availing; but the *display* and *appearance* of these qualities which will command attention: for were physicians taught to expand and strengthen their minds, by too *early and diligent* application to science and literature, the *present race of doctors* would be left to starve without a patient, whilst, as *knaves and dunces*, they monopolize every fee to the no small mortification of, and disparagement to, the man of *real industry* and *sterling merit*.

Having premised these few trite observations I now proceed to the subject more *immediately* under consideration, and first be it remarked that the obtaining your diploma, will form a considerable share of your *early* attention, as without that sanction you must remain ever disqualified for *killing* your fellow creatures with credit and eclat. I have heard it sometimes asserted by men of evidently *contracted* minds and *weak understandings*, that the most proper and eligible persons to be entrusted with the physi-

cian's *diploma*, as best qualified for the undertaking, on account of their *practical experience*, are that race of vain *pretenders*, vulgarly yclept *apothecaries*; but to a man of soaring genius, and extensive yiews, this must appear a *downright hoax*, for under what a lamentably ignorant prejudice must that person labour, who can be weak enough to imagine, that a man who has been attending at the *bed-side* of the sick, for twenty, thirty, or more years in a continual routine of *practice* should be better qualified to act as a *physician*, than another who has been *getting drunk and debauched* for two or three years within the hallowed walls of an *university*, and perhaps never saw the progress of a disease in his life, *except in books*, if even *they* have been consulted: such a supposition would be an *absolute libel* on any common capacity.

As then you will easily perceive the vast superiority and high importance of a *university* education for making a physician, I shall proceed next to inforin you of the most ready means by which you may accomplish this object. I take it for granted, that you have already obtained a *smattering* of Greek and Latin: this has usually been considered as a *sine quā non* for the practice of medicine; but this is merely a *vulgar prejudice*, for I have known many physicians, who have otherwise cut a very *respectable figure*, who never wrote a *Latin* prescription in their lives. With this very *superior* advantage then, you may go to Edinburgh or Glasgow, and at the age of

eighteen years, or younger if thought proper, enter yourself as a student, and after *three years residence* you are entitled to your diploma, may then demand it, and at the age of eighteen or twenty, are then dubbed an *M.D.* and may enter on your professional career, with the most *brilliant* prospect of success. With this *grave document* in your pocket, and plenty of something in your head, up you come to London to astonish the natives with your very transcendent *attractions*, and eclipse that *presuming* and *confident* set of fellows called *apothecaries*.

As the most grave and potent seniors, the *doctores doctissimi of Warwick-lane*, have in their wisdom lately discovered, that it is for the advantage of the community, that *genius and real merit* should be cramped and depressed *as much as possible*, it will frequently here happen, if you are bent on entering the list of *London champions*, that you will meet with some little additional difficulties to encounter; but as they with a little address are easily got over, you need feel no discomposure on *that* head. Although you are *now* to all intents and purposes an actual *M.D.* and perhaps are very eminently entitled to the more *noble* appellation of an *A.S.S.* yet these *mighty luminaries* of W—— lane, will not unfrequently assume a considerable degree of consequence, by issuing their *veto*, and interposing their authority to prevent your practising within *their jurisdiction*; first feeling a degree of jealousy of so *formidable* a rival, who may *rise on their shoulders* to fame; and secondly, that you may be lightened

and disincumbered of a little of *your loose cash*. This, alas! to novitiates unprepared for such an event, is an absolute *thunderbolt*, who may be alarmed at *trifles*, but with persons of your noble minds, will be easily surmounted. But you may be inclined to inquire, if I have already obtained my diploma in an *honourable way*, is not that sufficient? "By no means," replies *old vinegar*, "that will not suffice *for us*, you are now subject to the *bye-laws* of our college, and its *restrictions*; and therefore we enter our caveat against *your killing* his majesty's subjects, without *our permission*. Produce your Edinburgh, Glasgow, or other diploma *to us*, and if *we* approve it, that will qualify you"—*to practice exclaim you!* "Oh, no, Sir, to be *examined by us*, and then *on our approval*, that is, if you *bleed freely*, we will grant you a *licence* to take your *full swing*, subject to *no other controul but our own*."

This you will find to be the ultimate *decision* from which there is no *appeal*. In this dilemma you are reduced to one or other of the following alternatives, either you must brush up your *peri-craniun*, and scatter abroad a little *gold dust*, or continue the exercise of your great talents out of *their district*. Now as to your *inaugural dissertation*, you may either write one yourself on *drunkenness*, or get some one to write it *for you*, which may be procured for a trifling remuneration; and as to your *examination*, you have only to read, study, and get by heart the *responses of Doctor Last*, and your business is done in a trice:

you thus pass the fiery ordeal of W—— lane, which to you can produce no terrors; your pertinent replies, your sagacious extravaganzas meet with their *concurring approbation*, and like silver tried in the crucible of the chemist, you come forth with resplendent purity and renewed *vigour*.—“Richard’s himself again!”—You receive your warrant, not forgetting it must be *handsomely paid for*, and now you are fully qualified to *direct* and *instruct* the oldest apothecary in the *metropolis*. This is one method of *manufacturing physicians*, which if it appear *too formidable* I shall give you some further instructions, how you may proceed, with still *less* inconvenience and trouble.

The extravagant and unnecessary waste of your *precious time*, your inability and repugnance to be thus questioned and catechized by these officious *gentlemen*, may induce you to almost give up your pursuit in disgust, from an under-rating and *modest deduction* from your shining qualifications. But that the *public* may not be deprived of your valuable labours, or you disconcerted by such *useless severities*, a much more pleasant process will effect your purpose equally efficacious, more speedily, and what may be of no trifling consideration, with *very little expence*. You must, in the first place, get three physicians in London, to attest a testimonial of your medical *abilities*, and strict *moral character*, which for a moderate *fee* you may readily obtain; this is then to be sent to the university of St. An-

drews or Aberdeen, accompanied with the small sum of fourteen pounds, when a *senatus academicus* will then be called, dub you an *M.D.* and return you your *credentials*, with full power to *kill, maim, and mutilate, ad libitum*. This method has, however, by some students been objected to, as less replete with honour than the former; but as honour should never be permitted to stand in the way of profit or interest, that should be expunged from your catalogue of *virtues*, as highly detrimental to the object you have principally in view.

But I will suppose, for a moment, that you *should* be incumbered with so empty and obsolete an ingredient as *honour and reputation*, and that you are looking forward to the period, not only when you shall be liberally pocketing *your fees*, but of being also elevated to the very pinnacle of *physical consequence*. Should this be your situation, you will of course have rather a *different* line of conduct to pursue. The seminaries of Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leyden, or Gottingen, though perhaps generally speaking, are the most eligible for a person who is *stupid* enough to make it a primary object, to become a *proficient* in his profession, which I should hope is not *your failing*, yet these have not been sufficient attractions to engage your *aspiring mind*; in this way you are only qualified to obtain the privilege of a *licentiate* of the London college, therefore anything so subordinate and *insignificant* may be very ill adapted to your *towering genius*; *you cannot*

rest satisfied with the *plebeian* titles of *M.D.* and *A.S.S.* tacked to your name, but the dignified and distinguishing epithets of “*Sociorum collegii regalis medicorum Londinensis, &c.&c.*” are mighty captivating sounds, and the exalted dignity of “*Præses et Censores,*” must in your estimation have a very extraordinary degree of *consequence* attached to them, and therefore to *honours* of this sort, you will be anxiously looking forward. Well then, taking it for granted that nothing short of *this* will satisfy your capacious mind, I shall hasten to answer your interrogatories, “ how can I most easily accomplish these my most ardent wishes?”

If *honours* and *titles* unhappily form the principal objects of your pursuit, and you should aspire to the ambition of seeing the terms of *president, censor, or fellow*, follow in succession to grace your name, nothing can, or will ever effect it, short of prosecuting your *studies* at one of the learned universities of *Oxford or Cambridge*. Now I will readily admit, that *this* process has the *appearance* of being a very formidable undertaking, and sufficient to terrify *tender* minds. This, however, should really create no alarm or dismay; there can be no cause, when I assure you there is only the *semblance* of difficulty, and *no more*. You will then in this case have nothing more to do than to matriculate, or enter yourself a *student* at one of these universities, where you will no doubt be soon instructed to divest yourself of the *man*, and invest yourself with the

dignity of a *beast*, and that in a very short time to your most sanguine wishes, as well as those of your friends. After you have *studied*, or to speak more *intelligibly*, have rubbed your shoulders against the walls of these *sacred* repositories of learning, for the space of *three years*, then you may demand, and the L. college will grant your diploma very *cheerfully*; you have only to procure some *plodding fellow* to write your thesis, produce your college *testimonials*, of having kept your proper number of *terms*, and at the age of one and twenty, you obtain a dispensation to authorize your dealing out your *learned* prescriptions, and improve those incorrigible *blockheads* the *stupid* apothecaries; and where *now* is the barrier that *dare* be opposed to call in question the *abilities*, or restrain the ardour of a physician of the L. college?* In looking around you among

* In order to illustrate this assertion, respecting the facility of obtaining these *honours*, I shall request the reader's attention to the following *little anecdote*, of the truth of which he may most confidently rely. A respectable apothecary in extensive *prætice*, and situated in a large town about fifty miles from London, had three sons, two of whom he from an early age initiated into the mysteries of his own profession, the other (as he had a *tolerable* share of influence with the *borough-mongering faction*) he very *piously* and *disinterely* designed for the *cure of souls*, particularly as he could not unfrequently consign some to *his care*, after their *bodies* had passed through the *purgatory of his discipline*. Acquiescing with the paternal solicitude and determinations of his father, our amiable stripling, feeling himself, no doubt, rather *moved by a divine impulse* to undertake this *spiritual employment*, than by the prospect of a *good fat living*, was actuated by the most honourable motives to fall in with his father's proposals. With such prospects in perspective, our hero was

the candidates for public favour and approbation in the practice of physic, you will frequently

sent to college, where he remained two years, *at very hard and incessant study*, particularly of his *bible*, when having passed so much of his time to his own as well as to the entire approbation of his tutors, from some inexplicable freak or other, the youth took it into his head that divinity and the mathematics were not entirely congenial with his taste, and that the practice of physic was of the two more to his mind; that it would be more *lucrative* at least, to exchange the *cure of souls* for the *healing of bodies*; and therefore, formed a fixed determination of being dubbed a *physician*, as soon as circumstances would permit.

Having suggested his sentiments and intentions to his enraptured *papa* on the subject, he of course *at first* very strenuously opposed them, and in a tone of great displeasure as well as disappointment, remonstrated with his ungracious son, on the very palpable fickleness of his disposition, as well as on the ruin of his *schemes* for his future advantage, but with little effect. The father, among other objections, represented to his son his total incompetence and ignorance of *physical subjects*, and above all most vehemently lamented that his instability should mar his intentions by thus hastily pulling down the mighty fabric which he had raised on the basis of his *alma mater*, and thus in a moment of imprudent impetuosity, destroy all his hopes of preferment in her bosom. To expostulate was however an absolute waste of time, our young gemman was bent on becoming a disciple of *Aesculapius*, and from this resolution, no rhetoric could make him swerve.

Under such a series of vexations and chagrin, there was nothing left for it, but that the father however reluctantly should coincide with his son's wishes, which he found useless longer to oppose. He had now *one year* left for the fulfilment of his proper number of *terms*, that of course was to be most assiduously appropriated to the *study of physic*. To work then he went, entered himself at the *medical lectures*, and at the expiration of the year came up to town, got some one to write his *inaugural thesis* for him, was *examined, approved as a very competent practitioner*, and immediately dubbed a *very dashing physician*. With endowments thus rare, the next thing was to find out an adequate field worthy

observe them involved in the most serious squabbles and disputations, respecting the most effect-

the exercise of such *wonderful talents*, where they might be duly and properly appreciated. After some length of deliberation, it terminated in the resolution on the father's side, that his sons high accomplishments could not be so brilliantly and lucrative employed, as in the *same town* where he had been so long in practice as an *apothecary*, recollecting, no doubt, that it is not an uncommon thing for a *physician* and *apothecary* to have a proper understanding as to the *nature of business*. This then was the *wise* plan which was ultimately decided on, and the *stripling* being invested with the insignia of office, such as I shall hereafter have occasion to hint at, entered on his arduous career, and was in the continual habit of writing his prescriptions, and instructing his aged father, who had been in business *there* long before he was born.

This truly grotesque and ludicrous farce, assisted by the gravity and lengthened phiz of *the doctor*, united with the folly of the apothecary, was commenced and carried on *at first*, with some tolerable shew of success, till the risibility of their neighbours visages in some degree interrupted their repose. Still, however, with a determination of persevering, they trudged on hand in hand with a seeming disregard of the grins and sarcastic jokes of the towns people, till at last the *hoax* became so universal, and the scene altogether so *truly ludicrous*, that our spark could brook it no longer, and was compelled to the lamented alternative of withdrawing his *transcendant talents* from a set of persons, who had neither discernment nor *gratitude* sufficient properly to estimate their *real value*. The father at the same time could with difficulty shew his face, on account of the continued sneers of his patients, till at length he was glad to put an end to his mortifications and penances, by removing his son from the immediate station of his *disgrace*, and fixed him in a town at some considerable distance from him, where by the united efforts of both father and son, *the doctor*, when I last heard of him, contrived by every *stratagem* and *device*, just to keep the *wolf from the door*. From hence then, reader, you will readily observe, that this process even of getting dubbed *physician*, is not that terrific and arduous attempt, as at first sight might appear to you, and

tual mode of obtaining a medical education. Among some of this senseless and conceited set of beings, you will find one party asserting that *Oxford* or *Cambridge* is the only medium from whence an ample fund of knowledge can be obtained; a second, with equal vehemence, will contend that the most celebrated of our physicians in the present day, have graduated in the universities of the north; whilst a third, with equal warmth will espouse the London schools of medicine, as alone calculated to form a *sound* practitioner. It happens very unfortunately, that whilst these highly gifted and penetrating gentlemen are quarrelling for what is by no means essential, they wander far from, and lose sight of the only point which seems worth contending for; namely, whether they have *really* qualified themselves for their profession *at all*, for in the fervour of their zeal for *place*, real *improvement*

which will also confirm the sentiment I have before advanced, that *talents* and *qualifications* are quite out of the question, for having carried your point, you may sport and trifle with the lives of your patients, with a very *good grace*. Your *diploma* authorizes you to commit every deception on the public, and no one will dare to presume calling in question your *perfect ability* for the task. Besides, are not the most *enlightened* of us, after the most attentive study and unwearied application, frequently very much *benighted* in the science of medicine, and the treatment of diseases? Why then, (admitting this fact,) should you labour and toil to obtain that knowledge, which after all may leave you to grope your way in more than *Egyptian darkness*; and why under such evident difficulties, should a person complain or grumble, when you are assiduously conducting him to the haven of peace and rest, far from the reach of every calamity, both bodily and mental?

is altogether overlooked and neglected; and when they vainly imagine themselves so completely qualified as to commence operations, *confusion* frequently takes possession of their *chaotic* brains, they proceed enveloped in the mazes of ignorance and error, and lastly, become the ridicule of men of the most superficial understanding.

The best advice, therefore, I can possibly give you to avoid these idle disputation and squabbles, is, to obviate *all* controversy on this head, by going to *neither of them* any longer or any further than may barely be sufficient to serve your purpose to pass your examination; and even in this respect, should you happen to fail, a *St. Andrews* or an *Aberdeen* diploma can always be had at a *fair market price*, which saves trouble, pains, and expence; for why need you subject yourself to the inquisitive curiosity and impertinence of a set of *arrogant coxcombs*, when you can obtain every thing you wish, for the insignificant sum of *fourteen pounds*?

It will be very readily admitted, that a man, who, in opposition to the rules of taste and fashion, is studiously engaged in the pursuit of *wisdom*, be it of whatever sort it may, should have all his views and energies directed to one main and grand object, and that is, that he may *shine* in that peculiar branch of science, in which he is destined to engage. This is, however, a preliminary which has been much enforced and insisted on by *bigots and fools*, both as it respects *fame* as well as *profit*. It may, in conformity

with this opinion, be taken as a very self-evident truth, which few will venture to disparage, that it is of very little consequence *where* a person receives his education, provided he can *bona fide* give a clear and unequivocal proof that *he has* acquired it *somewhere*; for of what importance is it for a man to say, “I have been at such a university, or have attended such and such lectures, or a particular hospital?” All this he may do, and remain as great a blockhead after all, as when he commenced it, if he has not made the best use, and improvement of his time and opportunities. All this may, probably, well apply to the *generality* of students, whose notions never soar above *mediocrity*; but to *you*, who should commence in a *dashing stile*, it will be very ill-judged to incumber your brains with what you will only find an impediment to your *pleasures*, and cloud your *intellect*. The grand secret you have to learn, is to *appear* wonderfully wise and sapient to the world, and to pass yourself current for a man of extraordinary genius. All this may be done without your labouring to be so *in reality*, and if you are successful in *this respect*, you may smile at the *weakness* of others, and leave the schools of *learning* for *pedants* and *fools*.

On the Physician about to commence Practice.

Without dwelling any longer on the minutiae of *education*, I will now suppose you have

possessed yourself with every necessary qualification for the commencement of actual practice, and that you feel anxiously desirous of being acquainted with the most probable means to ensure success, both as to *fame* and *emolument*. On this, as a distinct branch of our subject, I shall be more explicit in laying down *my rules*, because I consider them of the highest importance to your welfare; nay, I may add, indispensable for an *eminent physician*.

In the first place, I would observe, that a physician about to engage in the practice of medicine will invariably find it necessary, that he should undergo a *complete metamorphosis*, that is, he must *put off* every thing about him that is like or appertaining to a *man*, and *put on*, as much as possible, the manners and appearance of a *monkey*, without even the exception of *his tail*.* If he ever possessed any thing like *ingenuousness*, *hilarity*, or good *humour*, these must all be speedily exchanged for a character the very reverse of such qualities, by attempting to invest himself with every *appearance* of sanctity, by assuming a *solemn visage*, and *formality* of deportment he should on no account ever be seen to smile, and his risible muscles should *bid defiance* to the

* Mr. Lake observes, "that were there a *monkey* that had the use of *reason* to such a degree, as to be able to understand *general signs*, and to deduce consequences about *general ideas*, he would no doubt BE SUBJECT TO LAW, and in that shape be A MAN, howsoever he differed in shape from others of that name;" from which it may be reasonably inferred, that *monkeys*, *Bond Street loungers*, and a certain genus of physicians are synonymous terms.

most humorous or facetious story. So truly essential is *this* maxim, that I need scarcely inform you—nothing is considered more *out of rule* by the public; nay, even more *criminal* than for a physician to *laugh*, or *openly* seem to enjoy the festivities of *social* intercourse; for so much is he *supposed* to be absorbed in *study* and *contemplation*, that he must necessarily banish himself from all mirthful and jocose society, and become in *external appearance*, an absolute Anchoret. In conjunction with this requisite *solemnity*, 'this irresistible mockery, great care is to be taken that it do not border on the least *austerity* of manners among your patients, which would operate as a most infallible antidote to all your other *valuable acquirements*. It should, therefore, be your particular study to combine with these *qualifications*--an *obsequious*, *cringing*, *fawning* manner, ready with a *baw* and *smirking* grimace to every miserable wretch from whom you can *wring a fee*; to learn by every artifice and possible device, the *weak side* of your employers, and fall in with, *flatter* and even *praise* their *foibles* and *very vices*.

If from this hypocritical and obsequious demeanor, you obtain the vulgar title of *a mighty pleasant, affable, good kind of a man*, in which, I apprehend, is included every thing that can place *a man* in a state of *degradation*, you must assuredly lay the ground work of arriving at the *summit* of your profession, the principal success of which, will materially depend on ignorant *old*

women, and fanciful *young ones*, on hypochondriacal *men* and rickety *children*. To the generosity and regard of all these nothing so much contributes or recommends a physician, as his being dubbed a very good kind of a man. You may be a good man and an honourable man, if you please; but with these you must rest satisfied: if you advance no further, for possessing nothing above them, you will at least remain a very vapid valueless kind of a character, be content to dine in indigence, nor ever expect to feast your eyes with the sight of a fee. You must also recollect, that these very honorable and good men, who are frequently starving in obscurity, with the attainment of this mighty good disposition, are not uncommonly wolves in sheep's cloathing; they have been early initiated in the necessity of a plausible cunning in the exterior deportment, as calculated to entrap the unwary, and promote the most base and sinister designs, but for want of sufficient spirit and resolution, fail in toto when they come to reduce them to practice, either from an idle qualm of conscience, or some other motive equally futile and insignificant.

When a young physician once asked the celebrated Dr. Radcliffe, what he should do to get practice, he gave him this laconic answer, “turn Atheist, and get yourself talked of;” by which, he must be understood as meaning to infer, that he should stick at nothing to gain notoriety, and his name greatly talked of. So very forcibly, indeed, does this opinion operate with mankind in

the selection of a physician, that if a man be only so fortunate as to get *a name* (no matter by *what means*) he will almost assuredly ensure to himself an extensive practice. I cannot, therefore, direct your attention to any thing more likely to be successful in this respect, than that of promoting and sounding your fame through the medium of *the press*. I would then, in an especial manner, recommend you to make your *entré* in the fields of literature, and keep up a continual noise by advertising and sending forth into the world, your *learned* publications. Whether any one who reads them, or you *who* utter them, at all understand them or not, is of no sort of consequence; *you* are the *reputed* author, *you* father them, and *you* reap the advantage and reward, and no one as yet ever commenced *author*, but he *must a priori* be a man of considerable merit and talent. You may also remark, for your encouragement, that it is by no means requisite that your literary performance should depend merely on the exertions of *your own* prolific brains, for the foundation on which to raise your renown, which may peradventure not be over incumbered with that vulgar ingredient, called *common sense*. I would particularly advise you, in the choice of your subjects, to select such as may engage you in polemical and controversial disquisitions; no matter how abstruse, so as they be composed in a lofty unintelligible style, and calculated to extort repeated replies from your antagonists, that in the display of your depth of

learning, you may ultimately reap the harvest of a complete *triumph*. All this will answer the purpose of a perpetual advertisement touching your skill, and *must* irresistibly compel the public duly to appreciate the value of your talents; in fine, your *publications* can neither be too numerous nor too voluminous, although you may not be even versed in the first principles of your *mother tongue*, yet a great adept in the *vulgar one*.

The subject of *vaccination* will, I think, afford you a fine scope for the manifesting your deep and extensive erudition, in which, like many other eminent and *liberal* practitioners, you will espouse that side of the question, which seems to promise you the greatest *fame* and *emolument*; and in attempting this, to obtain *notoriety*, and make a prominent figure, an acrimonious dispute, totally unconnected with *truth or facts*, will frequently prove a source of considerable gain, as well as at *all times* and under *all circumstances* to diffuse sentiments obnoxious to the public good, which you will find is, with mankind in general, the *chief* desideratum; and, therefore, to indulge them in their conceits, should always be the object of a physician, *ardently thirsting* for public favour and patronage.

Be it also further remarked, that for the purpose of supporting any absurd dogma you may think it eligible to espouse, it will be by no means necessary that you should lay under the imputation of a steady attachment to *truth* and

real matter of fact, but with a single eye to the *object in view*, that you exhibit such garbled accounts and improved histories, as are best adapted to support an affected singularity, even at the expence of your own convictions to the contrary. It may not, perhaps, be expected that you will be able to bear away the palm of victory from such formidable champions in the cause, men of such enlightened and superior understandings as Doctors *Jenner* and *Thornton*, Mr. *Ring*, and others; still you need not hesitate to enter the list of these opponents, as you are upheld and supported by such *scholars* and patriots, as Doctors *Rowley*, *Squirrel*, &c. to whom posterity will owe an eternal obligation for being in some *measure liberated* from the manacles of this *hideous disease*, through their unwearied and laborious efforts; and whose *disinterested* and *pious advice*, parents will hereafter have cause to regret their neglect of, when they see, after the operation, one of their children with an *ox-face*, another with a pair of antlers, though rather more *common* than the former, and a third completely covered from *head to heel* with the most nauseous and filthy sores; all of which might have been *altogether* prevented, had *their humane* and paternal admonitions been attended to.

You may, probably, be inclined to suppose me facetious, or disposed to be *satirical*, and with that impression be led to inquire "how under such unpromising circumstances, is it possible for me to commence *author*?" In reply to such

queries, I answer, nothing more easy, paradoxical as it may seem, even though you cannot write *common sense*. As, however, there is frequently considerable difficulty and trouble in the profession of an author, all this drudgery you may very easily avoid, by procuring some needy garret-scribler to do it for you ; these are to be obtained with great facility, and at a very little expence, who will furnish you with a learned treatise, on any subject required. Having manifested your judgment by fixing on some *inscrutable* or metaphysical topic, be careful that it be well interlarded with a liberal assortment of Greek and Latin quotations, and as the general bulk of your readers may not be rigid adepts in these *dead* languages, being so much superseded now by the *living* ones, you need not be particular, (or your assistant rather) from what author you collect them. All this will not only give you an air of vast importance, and astonish the world by the profundity and depth of your erudition ; but by this same means, you will be sure to alarm and frighten those *murderers* of literary fame, *the reviewers* ; for if you cannot afford to *pay sufficiently handsome* to command a favourable report of your labours, you may escape the mortification of seeing them cut up and completely dissected ; for if they are above *their comprehension*, they will either praise you up to the skies, or be absolutely *compelled* to observe a profound silence.

'There is another profitable expedient, to which

in an especial manner, I would beg leave to call your attention, which, if well managed, will prove a source of very considerable advantage; what I thus allude to, is the subject of *religion*: a more captivating mine of wealth, I cannot hold up to your view, or a more admirable *mask* under which you may carry on your systematic series of *imposition* and *hypocrisy*. You may, therefore, look about you for the most numerously attended conventicle in your neighbourhood, and having entered into close communion, a regularity and unremitting attendance among *the vessels of grace*, will prove an undeniable method of decently *filling your pockets*, particularly if you can groan with vehemence, take every opportunity of *crying down* the moral and social duties of man, and consign every one *headlong to hell*, not within the pale and communion of the faithful *predestinated lambs*. Let it also be your care, to select one of the principal *seats* in the synagogue, that your *good works* may be readily and openly *seen*, and be sure you conyince the old women you can turn up the whites of your eyes with the most *godly* of them, and that you can sigh and bewail your spiritual *poverty*, in as good a style as ever a *mother Cole* among them.

At the same time that you are establishing your character for religion and strict piety, within the bosom of *the elect*, and as a *chosen vessel of grace* are called on to dose *the saints*, far and near, you may still have your eye on a matter of no small consideration to a young physician, with

his pockets not over *lined* with the *shreds* of Threadneedle Street; which is that of uniting yourself in the holy bands of matrimony with some amiable young lady, or superannuated old *Tabby*, as pious and disinterested as yourself. In this respect, you cannot go to a more profitable *market*, than by being constant in your attendance at the agappæ, or *love-feasts* of the saints; here you have the finest opportunities for enjoying a *spiritual*, if not a *carnal* satisfaction; but if, from the *impure* suggestions of the *wicked one*, you are tempted to turn your mind to impure subjects, or *feel emotions*, unnecessary for me here to particularize, whilst *pressing* the fair hand of some *virgin Dulcinea*, be sure you do not betray your *carnality*, by presuming to *press her lips* also with too great extacy, at least before the *candles are extinguished*; and then beware you do not fall aboard one of the *old class-leaders*, in mistake, lest you incur the penalty of excommunication from the faithful, your profaneness be blazoned abroad, and all your hopes of this way making *your fortune*, irrevocably blasted.

Again, let it be an invariable rule with you, though it must be always managed with discretion, to order your servant *to call you out* of chapel in the middle of the service: this will be productive of a two-fold piece of advantage; it will impress the congregation with a due consideration of your anxiety and readiness to dispense your assistance among the unfortunate and

distressed; exemplify the *high request* your talents are held in, and at the same time, exempt you from the penalty of *murdering a full hour*, or even more, in hearing some ignorant, drawling hypocrite, mangling his mother-tongue; and preserve the tympanum of your ears from being cracked by his *thundering anathemas* of eternal damnation.

Above all things, use your endeavours, not only to become a *child of grace* in the communion of *Whitfield, Wesley, or Huntingdon*, by taking every *fair* advantage of your friends and neighbours, under the impenetrable mask of *religious hypocrisy*; but use every effort in your power to acquire a character notorious for humanity and *charity*, which your *pastor* will inform you, as well as myself, will *cover* a multitude of sins. In all contributions and subscriptions for the relief of distressed objects, such, for example, as our betrayed and impoverished countrymen detained in France, by the *ruling despot*, contrary to the laws of all *civilized nations*; for the distressed sufferers by *French fraternity* in Portugal, or any other *public concern*, but particularly for the poor members of your conventicle, be sure *your name* make a very conspicuous figure in the *list* of subscribers, which not only infallibly raises your reputation among *the elect*, and the world at large, but will be of considerable use in your *spiritual concerns*; for by this means, you purchase an absolute *licence* to seduce, debauch, and ruin every *friend*

that falls in your way, and in the event of the approach of an unexpected reverse of fortune, the *Bank of Faith* will supply your every want, even to the minutiae of a *pair of small clothes*, or a *cup of tea*.

Having in this way, or *some other* more consistent with your own *goodness of heart*, entered the *sanctum sanctorum*, and, as a *child of grace*, no longer *under the law*; that is, under no restraint as to any *moral obligation* whatever, it would be *legality indeed*, to suffer the recollection of your feelings, particularly in the way of your practice, to give you the least momentary degree of compunction, as you well know the greater *the sin* the greater *the grace*; and as the grand motive and stimulus to all human exertion, is to get money and *be respected*, and as what is too commonly termed, *honour*, may not so speedily and effectually fill your purse, as *some other means*; let nothing stand in the way of your *interest*: no qualms of *conscience*, of sense, of honesty, interpose to impede the progress of your advancement. If, therefore, like your *spiritual guide*, dishonesty, lying, deceit, oppression, duplicity, hypocrisy, or many other rare qualities, which are sometimes by weak heads, foolishly distinguished by the *opprobrious epithet* of *vices*, will best turn to your account, make no scruple to adopt them *all*. To conclude on this head, be it your constant care to be equally obsequious, sneaking, and condescending to *every one*, the vicious as well as the virtuous: which among

the *saints*, will pass current for *humility* and *self-abasement*, and make the whole mainspring of all your *actions* entirely subservient to your final interest and aggrandisement.

A physician of real judgment, studiously desirous of using every *honourable* endeavour to engage the good will and *word* of mankind, will for the *same* reason be anxious for cultivating every incident to ingratiate himself, and live on a friendly footing with the apothecaries, to whose *unbiased* opinion and recommendation he is often indebted for a *friendly fee*. As a just recompence for such obligations conferred on you by this means, it will be necessary that you should be acquainted with the most ready method of repaying them, not at your own, but *your patients' expence*. Your principal care then should be, when called to attend a patient under such circumstances, to have a private interview *first* with the *friendly apothecary*, in order that you may gain information to what extent you may plunder him; and that you may not prescribe more *largely* than can be certain of being paid; for which the apothecary might not feel himself your debtor. As soon therefore as you have your *cue*, you must begin by prescribing as *liberally* and as *copiously* as you possibly can; you may order draughts, mixtures, lotions, pills, boluses, blisters, glysters, &c. *ad libitum*, and in short both externally, as well as internally, *drench* your patient at every pore. In the event of the case being urgent, as to require your visits more

than once a day, even if extended to thrice, always write a fresh *prescription* at every time of attendance, making such alteration in the medicines as opportunity presents for that purpose, or is best calculated to conceal your *real* motives for so doing. In this way, you give your friend Mr. Apothecary an occasion of troubling himself to send a fresh cargo of *trash*, no matter how much the miserable patient is deluged with it; or indeed whether he swallow your *poisons* at all: the *effect desired* is precisely the same, for at all events you gratify your friend by filling *his pockets*, and your patient perhaps by filling *his stomach*, and so two very desirable and *useful purposes* are obtained at one and the same time.

Another very useful and pleasing resource, which is commonly attended with very conspicuous advantage, is that of inviting a number of surgeons and apothecaries to a weekly fete or *conversation*; with these may be included all the nobles and persons of consequence in your neighbourhood, that you can allure into your net. To prove yourself a patron of the fine arts, as well as a *great* physician, your house should be fitted up in the highest taste and style possible, and your *museum* furnished with fossils, minerals, stuffed birds, beasts, snails, beetles, anatomical preparations, *lusus naturæ*, and every other sort of natural curiosity, or exotic, your circumstances and industry enable you to obtain. Your noble and *fashionable* visitors will admire your indefatigable perseverance, honour your viands

and wines with their *approbation*; and when they have *over gorged* themselves, or got tolerably *boosy*, it is very hard on you indeed, if you do not come in for some tolerably *comfortable* job; which if a little wisely protracted by your *friendly* interference, may amply repay you for the expence and trouble of your entertainment. As to the *poor needy sneaking sons of the pestle and mortar*, you so completely win them over to your purpose, as to *command* their services on *all occasions*; for common decency and gratitude, which you so much admire and practice *yourself*, must compel *them* to give you a job, as soon and as often as they *really* have it in their power.

You will find it always of considerable consequence, to assume, at every opportunity, as much the *appearance* of superior penetration and *sapience* as you possibly can. To think then of studying your profession merely on the *broad basis of science*, is quite out of the question; it would never be productive in proportion to your wishes and deserts, unless your efforts be accompanied with a *pompous display* of what in reality you *never possessed*; besides it would engross by far too great a proportion of your precious time, which must surely be much better employed, in learning to qualify yourself to please your patrons successfully. In pursuance of this wholesome advice, you may enrich your memory with a few cant technical phrases, with the medical terms for a few common diseases; but be very careful in *letting off* your *crackers*

you do not venture beyond your depth, so that you be easily detected in your ignorance ; for it is safer to profess no *particular* share of great sense, than to run the hazard of being laughed at for your presumption and conceit : you had therefore better at first *make your soundings*, and act with prudent reserve till you have fairly ascertained that your hearers are as great *blockheads* as *yourself*. When you have measured the depth of their *skulls*, and satisfied yourself there is no one found capable of detecting your defects ; with a grave and sanctified phiz, you may proceed to prescribe away freely and boldly : if the patient *die*, (an occurrence you must be *frequently* prepared to meet with,) his death will be attributed, as it *ought to be*, to an obstinate and incurable disease ; if he survive *your dosing*, you of course come in for the credit of the cure. A prophet, I have heard asserted, is not without honour in his own country ; but the physician is not unfrequently destitute of both *honour and profit* : therefore, take this hint, and be well on your guard against being impeached for a *fool* as well as a *knave*.

I have heard it hinted, and in a certain degree of latitude admit the fact, that it can never be supposed a physician could write a prescription with *due effect*, who did not pay his visits to his patients *in a carriage*. So palpable and gross an inconsistency as this, would be of *almost equal importance* as a *parson* preaching without his gown and cassock, or a *chancellor* sitting in judg-

ment uninvested with his ermined robe and flowing wig: or to extend the simile a little farther, as great a *solecism* in common sense, as a physician attending a patient without a *fee*, who could not afford to give one; or a *brainless lawyer* who had the *interest* of his client more at heart than his *brief*.

Having premised thus much, it will be evidently apparent to you, how great an additional share of respect and admiration you will command, by striving to comply with this useful and *salutary* custom; for who ever had a proper opinion of a physician's *abilities*, who could not afford to *run over* and *trample* on plebeians on foot, in a handsome equipage? There is a method by which you may support your *dignity* in this respect, although the expence of constantly keeping a chariot may at first be rather incompatible with your finances; which is, to hire a *job carriage* for a *day*, about once in two or three weeks, and on *that* day to pay a *general* visit to your patients whether *sick or not*; and in the intermediate time, your coachman has either lamed *himself*, or one of your *horses*; your carriage is undergoing some necessary repairs, or finding yourself getting *corpulent*, you judge it requisite to take the exercise of *occasionally* walking; either of these excuses may answer the end tolerably well, and a *white lie*, you know, can never be injurious to any one. In this place, accept another very necessary hint, that cannot here be properly omitted; which is, that in riding

through the streets, particularly those which are most populous, you should remember always to sit as *forward* on the seat as possible, with a *book in your hand*, that the passengers may observe how *intent* you are on your studies; and that every spare moment of your time is occupied for the *public good*; indeed the same advice will hold equally good in your *days of perambulation*, as your *meditations* cannot be more *advantageously* and *attentively* pursued, than in the noisy and bustling streets of Holborn, Fleet-street, or Cheapside. By this manœuvre you are *your own trumpeter*, an absolute stalking-horse, or advertisement of your own great talents; but at the same time you are carrying on this farce, you may amuse yourself with the newspaper, Joe Millar, or some other publication equally *edifying* and *useful* for a practitioner in medicine.

When you happen to be called to a patient, who has previously been attended by some other practitioner, let it be your first object, either in oblique terms; or *pointedly*, if required, to find fault with, and condemn *every thing* that he has done before you attended, taking especial care to insinuate that if *you* had been called in *sooner*, much trouble, pains, and expence might have been saved. This maxim will apply with great effect, if the disease should be a consumption, or some other malady likely to terminate in *death*, as you may readily and boldly assert, that if the *proper means* had been timely applied, the patient need not have been reduced to such a dan-

gerous situation, but that in the present dilemma, even with *your supereminent abilities*, the exercise of them has been *fata*lly too long delayed.

Should the practitioner who preceded you be a physician, a mere hint, a significant shrug of the shoulders, or an elevation of *your eye*, in which you have been *well* exercised at the *tabernacle*, will be quite sufficient to *damn* his name, and *rob* him of his bread. This will generally be found to answer a very good purpose; first, you carry your point, by raising your own *reputation* on the ruin of that of your antagonist; and secondly, as you *say* nothing to his dispragement, you effectually escape all *legal* interference, though it may be as well first to ascertain whether your predecessor be a man of some *spirit*, and not insensible to a *trivial insinuation*; lest he might feel disposed, in the effervescence of *disappointment*, to exercise his horse-whip or rattan over your delicate shoulders *unmeritedly*, in the event of your *rascality* ever happening to reach his ears.

If, on the other hand, the patient has been previously entrusted to the care of one of those *blundering fellows* called apothecaries; you need stand on no ceremony or delicacy with respect to *him*; you may insinuate that the patient is in *great danger*, even under a conviction of his perfect recovery in a few days; but that nothing else could be expected where *no* physician has been employed. By this easy method, you obtain the entire meed of praise and credit, if the

patient recover; if he dies, you transfer the whole odium and disgrace from *your own* to the shoulders of the *ignorant apothecary*.

Another very necessary precaution in delivering *your* opinion is, if possible to obtain a *sight* of the medicine the patient has been previously swallowing; which you will always find him or his friends very forward in complying with. On applying the phial to your *lips*, and the cork to your *nose*, and thoroughly examining its contents, with an affected air of gravity, a simple shake of the head, as a mark of disapprobation, will be very judiciously thrown in; and if you find the *colour* of the medicine *white*, be always careful that what *you* prescribe be *diametrically* opposite, such as *red* or *black*; for it would be a dreadful degradation to *your* consequence, to suffer the patient to imagine, that *you* deign to acquiesce with the means which have been *before* employed. Should the pitiful and *pitiable* apothecary be present at your attendance, leave no means unexerted to *wound his feelings*, and reduce him to a mere *cypher* as much as you possibly can: you may permit him to *stand by* your side, whilst *you* are questioning the patient, and writing your prescription; but never condescend to shew him any *decent* civility, or make any enquiries respecting the original symptoms, or what has been *before* tried for his relief, except you find yourself totally ignorant of the case. This would be placing yourself on a level with a *paltry* dispenser of medicines, *assist* your efforts

in the patient's cure, and thus let a good opportunity slip of plundering him of a few *extra fees*, by his *too speedy* progress to a state of convalescence.

It has been very erroneously supposed, and ignorantly asserted by many persons, that the attainments of a physician, like other objects of human pursuit, can only be acquired by industry, superadded to a natural good understanding; and also as a very natural and forcible conclusion "*that a man who is stupid and ignorant in other matters, can never be a good physician;*" because the same impediments which prevent him from becoming a proficient in other branches of science, must of necessity incapacitate him for comprehending the just principles of the *practice of physic*. This, however, you may rest assured, is deducing an inference from *false premises*; nor is any thing more strikingly evident of its fallacy, than the peculiar facility of successfully combating and opposing so preposterous and ridiculous a position. That impudence, vanity, self-importance, and ignorance, will frequently supersede modesty, and gentlemanly behaviour, with a competent judgment in the profession, is so very evident, that it would appear superfluous in me to attempt elucidating by reason or argument; you have only to take a review of the world, and daily observe the vast multitudes of *fools* and *dolts* who are prescribing *themselves* into opulence, and their patients to *the devil*: and this accounts in some measure for

that dearth of intellect, which you will so commonly find among the *medical* fraternity. Learning and ability, when weighed in the medical balance against ignorance and impudence, will seldom require you to kick the beam, but will commonly preponderate in a surprizing manner ; and carry on the *empiric* to those situations, where a man of dissidence and enlightened understanding would be almost intimidated to *shew his nose.*

If then, in this matter, it befalleth *equally* to fools as to men of sense ; if the most ample share of *real* skill can thus easily be superseded by more *superficial* means ; what need is there for *you* to labour to attain these qualifications ; which after all will bear no proportion of respect, when opposed by effrontery and an *external* glare of shining abilities ? For this reason, we too often find physicians who are directing their studies to such subjects as are totally unconnected with their professional *duties* ; and hence we also frequently discover that a man who can neither procure fame nor emolument in the exercise of his profession, will endeavour to repair the neglect, by having recourse to some other expedient ; and thus from the catalogue of *medical professors*, we have been furnished with poets, orators, actors, lawyers, politicians, and divines ; in each of which more celebrity has been acquired, than in their originally destined pursuit. Surely no man can labour under a more dangerous and unprofitable error, than that of retaining too nice and punctilious a notion of what is undeniably de-

nominated honour and rectitude. Reflect on this *perversion* of your intellect, and speedily set about cleansing the Augean stable of such *unfashionable* sentiments, should you unfortunately ever be incumbered with them, in your progress to wealth, which includes in it *every thing* worthy your attention. Do we feel any hesitation to dismember a patient of a *gangrened* limb, when the functions of life are in *danger*; should we feel any *qualms of conscience*, when our very existence would even be annihilated by attending to such importunities? The rays of philosophy, and the beams of science may illuminate and adorn the pages of medicine, and be eagerly sought after by *pedants*; but then *they* will be generally found to languish and wither in *obscurity*, for the want of public favour and preferment, whilst mankind are collectively and ardently employed in fostering and protecting *stupidity* and *insolence*, and at the same time studiously cherishing *bigotry* and *error*.

Attaching yourself to what I have already suggested, on the subject of getting yourself *talked of*, I know no better method of *adding* to your notoriety, and consequently to your practice, than that of becoming a physician to some *public institution*, as a dispensary or hospital, the mere *canvassing* among the *haut ton* to procure your election, must be productive of very beneficial effects; particularly if you will arm yourself with some few of the rules I have already submitted to your consideration, on the

subject of *cringing, fawning, flattery, and lying* with every one to whom you make application. It will be necessary to procure every private information respecting the character of your opponent, and to exhibit every foible, (without having any regard to truth,) to universal reprobation; this will not only by *comparison* place your own in a much more *amiable* point of view, but also operate very considerably in your favour, especially with the liberal and candid at the poll. As soon as you have gained the object of your wishes, and are duly elected to your office, you are to address the “*lords, ladies, and gentlemen,*” in a most adulatory and fulsome panegyric, on their *discrimination* and benevolence; and as a return for their *impartiality*, assure them that your *whole life* will be devoted to their *service*, and the prosperity of their most *humane* and benevolent institution.

With every profession of tenderness and sympathy *in your mouth*, you must, prior to undertaking the duties of your office, expunge every atom of such nonsense from *your heart*; and by every stratagem in your power contrive to *insult* and *domineer* over every patient committed to your care. To guard against the imputation of being reported a *humane good sort of a man*, you must manifest your authority by being as rigidly severe and contumacious as possible; and exert every endeavour to render the situation of the *afflicted poor* as irksome and miserable as you can; by which means you not only support a

very *proper* degree of pomp and hauteur; but you benefit the *charity* very considerably at the same time, by frightening and driving away the sick from its protection; who had rather leave it half cured, than submit to your *insolent* and *barbarous* behaviour. With respect to the care and trouble imposed on you by the acceptance of the situation, this is a circumstance which need give you very little concern: it is certainly *minima de malis*, and better that a *pauper* should perish for want of timely assistance, than that you be prevented from affording due attention to your more weighty *private* concerns; and as there is generally a resident apothecary, who may know something *more* of his profession than *yourself*, *your occasional non-attendance* will not altogether be an *insuperable* objection, nor prompt you for a moment to listen to the supplicating *tones* of *charity* or *fellow-feeling*; qualities which ought never to obtain the smallest space in the *heart* of a physician of eminence.

Notwithstanding what has been before observed, it will readily be supposed, that under proper *modifications* and *restrictions*, that is, when you can get any thing by it; the virtue of sympathy is always to be admired; and no less *amiable* will it appear in a physician, when actuated by *proper motives*. Should you then be fortunate enough to be called in to some *fashionable* or *noble* patient, you should pay the most implicit attention, not only to his disorder, but to gratify every wish, even *before expressed*, by studiously watch-

ing every gesture and turn of the countenance. You must, (to be brief,) under such favourable circumstances, with such prospects brightening on you, become the supple, cringing, and servile *sycophant*, obsequious to the nod of *power* and *exalted station*, and at your post ready to concur with the will and desires of any *paltry scoundrel*, disguised in the *trappings of nobility*.

Again, you must never feel the least reluctance, when *self-interest* is at stake, to prostitute your talents, or barter your honor, (*if you ever possessed either*,) in flattering and sanctioning the depraved and pampered vices of any *fashionable* or *noble patron*; and be ever prepared to lend yourself to his whim and caprice. To so wealthy or *noble* a personage as *this*, let no sarcastic sneer, or busy officiousness of a *slandering* world, ever deter *you* from falling in with his personal or political antipathies, and at every hazard of *reputation*, manifest no disinclination in being active to undertake and complete any *dirty work* he may wish to *honor you* with; that is, if *he* requests it, you will pimp, intrigue, whore, get drunk, and seduce and allure every virtuous woman you meet with; and *then* consign them to the embraces of your *noble* and high spirited patron and debauchee.

Should your *noble* protector belong to the number of the *faithful*, and be the absolute *pillar* and corner-stone of one or more of our *modern gospel shops*; you can easily metamorphose yourself into a knight of the *sorrowful* countenance,

and become as great a hypocrite, or determined a bigot as himself; and by the help of an *exterior* garb of *sanctity*, you may even deceive the *very elect themselves*, that so you may put to silence the vain babblings of infidels and scoffers, and with greater *plausibility*, cheat, lie, deceive, get drunk, and find a more ready passport to the beds of the *female saints*. If, on the other hand, he be destitute of the *true religion* above described, a mere brute; or a disciple of *Epicurus*, contending that the *sole* purpose of man's creation, was to feed and gratify every *beastly* passion and propensity; to *you* the task of obedience is equally familiar; you can in this case laugh *religion* out of countenance, cry down and despise every moral and social tie which attaches mankind to each other; and from the most *rigid puritan*, the veriest enthusiast, be transformed into the *vilest monster* which *earth* or *hell* ever saw; still not *altogether* unmindful that a fictitious and delusive softness of manners, the melting gentleness of the *eye*, and mellifluous accents of the *tongue*, if not badly managed, and *properly disguised*, will very frequently turn to a decent account; yet some experience on *this* subject will be absolutely required to render it as *lucrative* and effectual as the amiable *Sir Felix Facinate*.*

* The medical world is exceedingly indebted to the celebrated *Sir Felix Facinate*, alias *Mac Sycophant*, for the introduction of this modern artifice into practice. *Sir Felix*, like a genuine *North Briton*, had wisely learned the necessity of becoming

Another very necessary appendage to a physician is, that of an *extensive library*, which always carries a very formidable degree of weight with it; for although you may not be incumbered with *too much learning within*, it is quite requisite that you should make an ostentatious display and parade of it *without*; and make up the deficiency in *your head*, by transferring your stock to *the shelves* of your study. To this end you must appropriate one of the best rooms in your house for the purpose of a *library*, taking care to have it *well filled* with books; but as you are above the vulgar prejudice of reading *medical works*, it is no great matter whether they consist of law, physic, or divinity: indeed you may supply yourself with every thing necessary on this head, by purchasing your wisdom *by the pound*, or at the price of *waste paper*. Surrounded in such a manner, by such a galaxy of stars

all things to all men, all things were equally within the grasp of his *capacious* mind; he would sigh with the distressed, drink with the beast, ogle with the coquette, *intrigue* with the fair sex, and attentively *listen* to the melting love sick stories of the young ladies; and when their *wishes* or *inclinations* were thwarted, would be always prepared, by the assistance of *an onion* in his handkerchief, with his *tears* at their melancholy recitals. Sir F., however, at last carried the *joke* rather *too far*, his meddling with the *private concerns* of some of his *patrons*, and not shielding his *hypocrisy* under a *proper disguise*, was the ultimate cause of his bitter disgrace; and Sir F. is now left to mourn his temerity *in reality* over his load of accumulated misfortunes, being discarded by the votaries of *ton*, and no longer their *fac-totum* in any *honorable* manner, to which his *great mind* and *extensive genius* were deemed competent.

in your cabinet of learning, you may be consulted at home, by persons wishing to avail themselves of your most rare abilities, which cannot fail of being strikingly conspicuous, whilst thus enveloped in the wisdom of the *ancients* as well as *moderns*.

Your anti-room should be adorned with correspondent *trophies*, and dignified ornaments.—Here may be exhibited some elegant anatomical preparations, or Egyptian mummies, which may be purchased at a reasonable rate: and every niche and corner, graced by bronze, plaster casts, or the busts of some of the most famous in the schools of medicine. Each of these may be distinguished by their several names, as Homer, Sophocles, Euripides, Galen, Hippocrates, Newton, and other eminent philosophers. It is of no consequence that they should be deemed *likenesses*; but care should be taken that you do not substitute Dr. *Brodum* for Hippocrates, Dr. *Solomon*, for Galen, or the head of *an ass* for any of our *modern* physicians, which might not only expose you to ridicule, but also give occasion to question the *soundness* of your judgment. These circumstances, however minute and insignificant they may appear, *separately* considered, yet in the collective aggregate, it is really surprising the good effects they produce on a *gaping* multitude; besides, you know it is but fair, that as your cranium may not be very copiously filled with brains, or indeed what are *good for any thing*, that your study and anti-room should be lined with an *external shew* of importance, to assist

you in carrying your farce of *fraud* and *imposition*.

I have known many a spruce smirking young *doctor* puff himself into a great deal of notice, by setting himself up for a public lecturer on the various branches of science connected with medicine; and therefore, it is a sort of *finesse* that I really think worth your trying, particularly as you will seldom find, that a physician, if he is even the *veriest blockhead* in nature, will be incommoded with having his skill and talents questioned, if he is previously known as a *public teacher* of medicine. This then, I think is a very convenient *toga*, for covering any *little trifling defect* in your understanding, and will most assuredly screen you from any species of *obloquy* or suspicion, which might attach to the merely sending a patient *prematurely* out of the world, from any *unforeseen mistake*. I nevertheless, very readily admit, that there are *some few* difficulties to be surmounted, before this excellent plan can be put in full execution; but *these*, rest assured, are not of that magnitude, as to abash or dishearten a man possessing a determined, vigorous, and persevering mind. If you should suppose yourself labouring under any *natural defects*, or impediments to your assuming the functions of an *orator*, such as a little tendency to *stammering*, or any physical cause which might operate as a bar to a perfect and distinct articulation; you may previously avail yourself of a little assistance, and take a few lessons on *elocution*, &c. of

Mr. Thelwall, or Mr. Woodman, either of whom, by a method *peculiar* to himself, will soon remove all your difficulties and scruples on that head ; and at the same time you may forward your endeavours, by a little *superficial* study of Cicero, Quintillian, and Demosthenes, on the requisites for a public speaker, and so become an absolute *adept* in the art, with great speed and facility.

You may, however, from your peculiar *modesty* and *timidity* still be disposed to feel a consciousness of your inability, from another *frivolous* cause ; namely, that of not being properly convinced of your competence to so serious and grave an undertaking. This, under circumstances of such *dissidence* and *humility*, added to doubts of your qualifications, may in some measure stand in your way ; but with a little superficial smattering on the subject, seconded by a moderate *share of brass*, there can be very little *real* cause for discouragement. You may easily collect and cull from the labours of other authors, as much as may be required to puzzle your auditors, for one tedious hour, embellishing your subject as you pass on, with such *shrewd* and *pertinent* observations as you have had an opportunity of making, during a very *extended* and *successful practice* ; taking especial care at the same time, that you never permit your pupils to trouble you with any officious interrogatories. It is by no means necessary that your lecture should be better *understood* by your *pupils* than

yourself; indeed, were it otherwise, you might stand accused of an unmerited and affected *singularity*; which might ultimately prove detrimental to your tried and irreproachable character. The improvement of those committed to your care should always be a secondary consideration; for were *professors* without *pupils*, till they were found to impart *real useful* instruction, many of them I believe would be very ready to relinquish their office, as a very laborious and *unproductive* concern. Taking it however for granted, that it is *your own* interest, and not that of *your hearers* which will form your principal rule and stimulus to action, *your own* purpose will at all events be completely answered; for the newspapers will ring with your fame, as a *public professor*; your pupils extol your excellence, for the happy mode of communicating the profundity of your ideas you pocket *their money*, and laugh in your sleeve at their *folly* and *credulity*; add to all which that a physician under such favourable report, generally obtains a decided preference with the *public*; particularly in cases of *singular* difficulty and obscurity, for the removal of which *you* must of course be so *eminently qualified*.

It will ever be a maxim of the most decided importance, that a physician when required should be as *silent as death*, and never reveal any *secret*; which, from the very nature of his profession, he must of necessity be entrusted with. This has been observed a pretty general rule,

but still *general rules* very frequently *admit of exceptions*; particularly, when like *Snake*, in Sheridan's elegant comedy of "the School for Scandal," you can make more by *revealing* than *concealing* a secret: and therefore, under the impression of such *laudable* principles, I see no harm that can accrue from exposing the irregularities of a husband to his wife, or of a son to his father: to be sure in the former case, you *wring the heart* of an amiable affectionate woman, or in the latter you may be the *innocent cause* of a father disinheriting and abandoning an unprotected son; but you remember the old adage "*humanum est errare*," you did not *intend* being the author of so much family discord, but you have *ingratiated* yourself with the most *powerful party*, and having obtained *so much*, you feel perfectly easy.

It will generally be readily granted, that a meddling busy *go-between* is a character, which is commonly held in detestation by the world; nor is the deliberate propagator of calumny and falsehood, an object of more general reprobation; but to a man of *prudence*, whose motto is, *get money if you can*, he can or ought to have no hesitation in assuming either, or both these characters; when the grand object of his pursuit may materially depend on so doing. It may also, in many cases, be detrimental to an individual, and operate materially to his deterioration to keep a *secret undivulged*; and though, on the one hand, you may sow the seeds of discord and

animosity in the bosom of his *dearest* relatives, yet on the other, when the *patient's* welfare as well as *your own* may be promoted by *betraying* any confidence reposed in you, it would be the height of imprudence any longer to conceal his *failings*; beside, in a *moral* point of view, you cannot as a Christian, consistent with your *conscience*, sanction any *vice*, by winking at his irregularities, and so expose yourself, from a *puerile tenderness*, to the censure and disapprobation of the *truly* wise and prudent.

There are very few persons, I imagine, who would not *una voce* enter a protest against the habitual practice of *drunkenness* in a *medical gentleman*, when it is recollected that a trust of the highest importance, no less than the loss or preservation of *life*, is entrusted to his care. It will frequently rest with a physician, whether a *whole family* shall experience a diffusion of permanent joy, or be plunged into the very abyss of sorrow and distress: for with a single error or stroke of *his pen*, he may sometimes give a patient a speedy introduction to another world. This fact being admitted, it will evidently appear to *you*, how necessary it is that a physician should be strict in his observance of the rules of *temperance*; that is, he should make it a maxim, never if possible to visit a patient, when he is absolutely so *drunk*, that he can neither *walk* nor *stand*.

In the course of your practice, you may be called on unexpectedly to pronounce judgment

on cases of the most dangerous and intricate kind, where an error or delay might be attended with the most serious and fatal consequences. I do not, however, wish to be so misunderstood, as that you should *altogether* refrain from the festive board, or that, at *proper* seasons, you may not occasionally offer a little sacrifice at the altar of *Bacchus*; but it would certainly be rather better for all *parties*, that you should go to bed *intoxicated*, and another person fill your place, than run the hazard of exposing yourself, and obtaining *unmeritedly* the character of a professed drunkard and debauchee. There will, however, be no *real* objection, in conformity with the opinion of the late Dr. Cadogan, to give nature in reason, an *occasional fillip*, which may be productive of more than a *single* advantage. In the first place your health will be considerably ameliorated by occasional fits of ebriety, and if you seek it at the table of licentiousness, among the riotous and disorderly, at club meetings and gambling parties, it is hard if by some *fortunate* means or other you do not come in for a *job*: either *your friends* will break one another's *heads* during some of their disputes and fracas, which may induce a fever, or you may be summoned the next day to repair the tone and energies of their *stomachs*, which had suffered from the heterogeneous mixture with which they had been before filled. At all events, *you* improve your *health*, get the name of a jovial fellow, and most

likely increase your *list of patients*, an object ever worthy *your* particular attention.

Although a starched and *formal phiz.* should be the *invariable* concomitants of the physician, yet in an age when morals are not conspicuously remarkable for purity; where opinion, example, the seductions of vanity, and the allurements of pleasure, are so forcible and operative, it will require in *you* more than an ordinary share of resolution to avoid contracting a slight tincture of fashionable depravity; especially when the scruples of virtue, and the rules of delicate integrity are converted into satire and ridicule; it by no means follows, that he is formed of materials *very different* from the general race of mortals, or not equally susceptible of the *tender* passion with other men. It will, therefore, perhaps *sometimes* occur, that *certain* feelings and emotions will be very importunate, so much so, as even in spite of your *religious* impressions to incline the *flesh* to war, and prevail over the *spirit*. As I really can discover no great good likely to arise from your being *absolutely a Joseph*, any farther than is required to blind your neighbours, and keep up the farce of an *external* sanctity; to follow *Lord Chesterfield's* advice on this subject, may perhaps be the best I can reasonably offer you, which in plain language, is that of intriguing with every *married woman* whom chance or opportunity may *luckily* throw in your way.

There is no man on earth, who has a finer

field for carrying on this species of *amusement* than a physician, and *you* certainly should embrace every occasion of availing yourself of such eminent advantages : alike insensible to the tears and remorse you may ultimately cause in *one* party, or the fury and revenge you may excite in the agonized breast of the *other* ; by inflicting a *wound*, for which it will ever be impossible to afford even a *palliative* cure ; your net may be spread out to entangle within its grasp, the innocence of a *daughter*, or the weakness of a *wife* ; and if circumstances require, wind up the catastrophe by taking away also the *life* of a *virtuous husband* : this will complete the catalogue of your *foibles*, regardless of those domestic and conjugal affections, which are *ignorantly* supposed the inviolable properties of a *husband* and *father*.

In the general routine of practice, you will of course very frequently be consulted on the various disorders peculiarly incident to the *fair sex* ; the *virgin*, the *wife*, the *widow*, all indiscriminately become in turn the objects of your care : so that under the mask of *hypocrisy*, and the pretence of *secrecy*, it is very hard on you indeed if you cannot select ladies enough, who under *your* notions of honour and gallantry, will not easily become the dupes of your palpable dissimulation ; indeed you must be well aware, that very few females can resist *your* solicitations, if a regular siege is laid, and the wild scrupulous notions of virtue removed, by the effects of your *logical* arguments. Some little degree of caution

and circumspection will be certainly necessary, should you have cast a longing eye on the *wife* of your *intimate friend and benefactor*; as in the event of a discovery, you may find the *gentlemen of the long robe* rather impertinently inquisitive, or may not relish a lecture in Westminster hall, quite so well as a *curtain lecture*, and in the end you be obliged to give a *preference* to travel, rather than take up a permanent abode in either of those *colleges* of good education and morals, called *Kenyon Lodge*, or the *Fleet*; to the entire destruction and downfall of all your flattering prospects. These calamities, though necessary to be hinted, may generally be guarded against by a little moderate prudence, and characteristic foresight; whilst a character for *gallantry* and *politeness*, will almost always render you the peculiar *favourite* of the ladies; and in the end, by *that* means, bring plenty of grist to your mill.

Nothing will derogate more from your consequence, and lay you under the imputation of being a *precisian*, than that of being punctual to your appointments, which is an *error* that a physician of eminence should seldom or never lapse into: for no one can reasonably imagine, that a person who is called on to visit the sick at a dozen or two places at one and the *same time*, can possibly be attentive to this vulgar and *insignificant* circumstance. If then you have made an appointment with one or more physicians to attend a consultation at *ten*, you can contrive to drive up to the patient's door *post haste* about

twelve ; and having bustled into the house, under the *appearance* of being greatly distressed for time, make a slight apology, and proceed to business : whether *you* preseribe or not, or leave it to your brother sharks, *that* is of no sort of consequence ; at all events you *pocket your fee*, and form another engagement to renew your attendance in the evening, by which means you obviate all opportunities of betraying your ignoranee, and *cunningly* come in for *two fees per diem*, instead of *one*. With respect to *your* observance of punctuality, with those miserable *poverty-struck* beings, the *pettifogging apothecaries*, that, as a maxim which *your great mind* would not even condeseend to glance at, should be sedulously erased from your diary ; it would be in direet opposition to the manners of a *gentleman*, to treat such *muckworms* with common decent *respect* ; besides, you know they frequently stand in the physician's way, by acting as *his substitute*, and therefore the sooner you can insult and *sicken* them the better ; particularly as you can always send your prescriptions to a *chemist*, and by degrees *worm him* out of your patient's good graces by a little well applied *slander and lying*. *This* you will always find a very profitable hint, for the less your patient has to pay a *common apothecary* for his honest la-bour, the more capable he will be of being *handsomely plucked*, by the insatiable avariee of a *high bred* and polished physician.

Although I have already had occasion to point

out the necessity as well as some of the advantages of a *sneaking*, *servile*, and *obsequious* demeanour, which among your superiors will generally pass current for a placidity of disposition, and an *accommodating gentlemanly* behaviour; without which, you can by no means expect to thrive, and bask in the favour of persons unaccustomed to contradiction, or the open ingenuous feelings of *men*; yet to those *below* your sphere, on whom you can exercise your authority *uncontrolled*, I would recommend you as much as possible to invest yourself with the manners of the most arbitrary and *determined tyrant*; for it will always be a feather in your cap, an undoubted proof of a *noble disposition* to insult and trample on *every one* who cannot from their situation resist the impulse of your *rascality*; and what can be a greater proof of your *independence*, than that of ill treating those who *dare not* resent your *cowardly*, *assassin-like* behaviour; or *bending* to others from whose blindness as well as arrogance you mean to *fill your pockets*?

As then, to the *one* class of persons, you are by every *lawful* device to practise the *suaviter in modo*, so towards the other you must be equally diligent in applying the *fortiter in re*; therefore, with respect to nurses, attendants and servants, you should *never* have recourse to argument or remonstrance, or make appeals to their reason or common sense to enforce your commands: but lay your injunctions *peremptorily* on them, by no means to deviate from the line of manage-

ment *you* have laid down for their guidance, under pain of *your* displeasure, or the fear of your influence with their employer, in persuading him to discharge them all from his service; all this may be sometimes embellished with a volley of oaths, or *gentlemanly* imprecations, and your dignity be this way very considerably elevated.

By such a line of general conduct as *this*, you not only prevent the nurses and domestics from becoming so *familiar*, as to discover your *real* character as an *errant knave and impostor*, but you also impress the patient with an idea of your being particularly attentive to *his* welfare and accommodation; a maxim to be in an especial manner engraven on your memory, in *all* situations and under *all* circumstances. Under this head allow me simply to add, that your concurring in any measure proposed by *any* other persons will certainly detract from the general scope of your merit. If then an attendant should recommend, or even the patient himself, express a desire for *wine*, do you immediately insist on the absolute propriety of *toast and water*: if animal food should be proposed, do you without reserve declare it the most improper thing in the world. If under an ardent acute fever with an insatiable *thirst*, a little *cold water* should be coveted, immediately insist on the necessity of *brandy*; and if cooling subacid fruits should be desired, make no hesitation to order a dish of *turtle soup*. Under all these circumstances the *recovery* of your patient, should

be the last thing in your thoughts, when opposed to the pompous display of *your* very superior penetration, and wonderful sagacity ; and if by such little *well judged* contrivances, you can be happy enough to *protract* the disease, never let the *pains* and *sufferings* of the patient be put in *one* scale, when in the *other*, you have so fair a prospect of fathoming the depth of *his purse* for a little longer period.

You will I trust be disposed to pardon a short digression, in making an observation or two, *en passant*, not exactly connected with the present subject. It has been contended by some strenuous sticklers for *academical* education, that no one should be privileged with a dispensation for the practice of medicine, who had not obtained a *degree* at one of our universities. This you will no doubt concur with me in considering a most illiberal and contracted opinion, a paltry unwarrantable *prejudice*. There can be no question, but that there *must* be a very peculiar, easy, and infallible virtue *in the wall of a college*, for communicating every species of learning to the student; yet I am *weak* enough to suppose it *within the scope of possibility*, that a man *may* become in some measure a scholar, who has *not deteriorated his faculties* by the fumes of drunkenness and dissipation, or made one in the throng with the uproarious associates at our immaculate universities, from which we sometimes find he returns a most *incorrigible ignoramus*; which united with other facts equally

cogent, impresses me with an inclination to suppose, however *singular* I may seem, that the Charter-house, Christ's-hospital, (that monument of our Edward's munificence) and some other *vulgar* institutions, have absolutely *now and then* turned out young men *fully* adequate for undertaking the pursuit of any of the *liberal professions*, or other active scenes in life.

Divested then of all illiberal prejudice, and viewing the subject with the eyes of candor, the question may fairly be *non quo, sed quomodo*, not by *whom* a man was educated, but in *what manner*; not *where* he acquired his knowledge, but *how*; and he who can reply in a satisfactory manner to such queries, ought in common sense and justice to be entitled to a *licence* to practise his profession. "*They manage these things better in France,*" was once observed, on a different occasion; and "*they manage their things better, much better in ***** Lane,*" may I exclaim on this. In days of superstition and *ignorance*, the time was when a man who could produce *ample proofs* of a liberal education, united with a *general correctness* of conduct, and persevering diligence, would, as a candidate for public favor, be successful in the enterprize; but as *mankind have become enlightened*, they have very properly and laudably insisted on the necessity of passing through and conforming to a set of austere *college rules*, as the *sine qua non* of being admitted to the privileges and immunities of a liberal profession. He *must* infallibly keep his

number of terms, he *must* squander a considerable portion of his property, to the great impoverishment of himself and family, before he can be deemed an eligible candidate; and *even then* probably fail, if he has not become an *adept* in scenes of the most *profligate* and *abandoned* kind.

Quitting once more this *hacknied* subject, I proceed to observe, that a tolerable acquaintance with the *prognostics* and *diagnostics* of diseases, will be eminently required in the practice of physic, that you may have it in your power to draw just conclusions, and answer in a *clear* and *satisfactory* manner, any *interrogatories* which may happen to be put to you. It will commonly be the case, when you are consulted on a patient's disorder, that either he or his relatives will be anxious and importunate to be acquainted with his *real situation*; particularly whether you have any suspicion of his being *in danger*, or if his recovery be doubtful. Now in reply to all such queries as these, no doubt by *impertinent* and *idle curiosity*, it will always be prudent to effect your business *dem dolet*: to make the very *worst* of the matter possible; and with a long face, and grave shake of the head, give ample reason to suppose that *you* consider the case at all events *doubtful*; even though you are well convinced (if you have sense enough to discern it) that in defiance of *your efforts* to the contrary, *he must recover* in a few hours;* but examining your

* A discretionary judgment will be required in this matter, that

stop watch, handling dexterously your *snuff-box*, and *wisely* smoothing your *chin*, you may add, that with *your* judgment and attention you hope to outrun your antagonist *Mr. Death*, and this time disappoint your ally *the undertaker*. The motives of this *honourable* conduct, you will no

your want of common *honesty* may not be readily detected. I knew a *learned doctor*, and a *public lecturer* too, at the west end of the town, who in this respect suffered considerable *disgrace* as well as *loss*, for his want of foresight. The *learned gentleman* was called in to attend a youth from school, who had been attacked with a very slight degree of fever, from which he was getting well in the hands of the *family apothecary*, who was *honest* enough to make *very slight* of the case. The *sapient doctor* was however of a very opposite opinion, and declared the boy was in the most imminent danger, but that he had no doubt of soon setting him again *on his legs*. Foolishly ignorant as not to recollect that his father, who was a *sensible intelligible* man, had sufficient understanding to count the *pulse* as well or better than himself, the poor *unthinking doctor* among other multiplied *falsehoods* assured him that the boy's *pulse* was at that time beating an hundred and forty strokes in a minute, but that he would prescribe a medicine which would *reduce* them by the morning; and took his leave having first pocketed his fee. The father alarmed at such an unusual quickness of pulse, drew forth his *watch*, for the purpose of *measuring the fact*, when to his surprise, he discovered they were really under ninety. Suspecting the imposition, the *apothecary* was sent for, who on examination perfectly acquiesced in the same opinion. The next morning the *sagacious doctor's* carriage drew up to the door, in he bolted in great concern for the safety of his patient: being charged with the *fraud*, after an interchange of a few *elegant compliments*, the doctor was shown where the fore door stood, and threatened with a *horsewhip*, if ever he again entered it, so that he was glad to skulk off in *sound trim*. Suffice it to say, the boy got well in a day or two under the care of the *ignorant and dishonest apothecary*.

doubt very readily anticipate; first, if your patient be *in reality* but *slightly* indisposed, you have a favourable opportunity for exasperating and protracting his complaint, to increase your number of fees; or if he should luckily escape *your snare*, and speedily recover, you have the credit of being accounted *a very fine man*. Secondly, if you should be detected in advancing the *truth*, and the *trick* pass unsuspected, the minds of the parties are prepared for the *worst that can happen*, and after you have yourself sufficiently fleeced *his pockets*, and have reason to think the patient *will really die*, in spite of *your skill*, you can urge the *utility* of further assistance by calling in *another physician* on a consultation; by which means you get a few more fees with a *good grace*, and on *his shoulders* transfer the honour and credit of being the *executioner*.

It is probably to *your advantage*, when you discover a patient under some sudden attack of disease, likely to retire from the bustle of *this state of trial and vexation* to *another world*, sometimes to apprise both him and his friends of the *real state* of the case without delay; first, that he may embrace an early opportunity of making some arrangement of his *temporal concerns*, for the want of which his *family* may be thrown into the most distressing state of confusion and disagreement; and secondly, that he may have the privilege of thinking on the affairs of eternity, and make a wise, happy and permanent provision for his *poor soul*. In the first in-

stance this may to you suggest the propriety of combining a little knowledge of *law* with that of *physic*, that you may on an emergency be qualified to *draw up a will*, if required, to give validity to any testamentary bequest which had been previously and improperly neglected. As a *will* when improperly constructed, may involve the parties concerned in it, in various disputes and litigations, great caution should be observed, that you be *clear* and expert in *wording it*, and that future litigation among legatees, if possible, may bestudiously and conscientiously prevented : you can obviously adopt no more effectual means of guarding against this inconvenience, than by bequeathing the *whole* property of the testator to yourself, and thus raise an effectual barrier against all future *wrangling* and *discord*.

If however the *bulk* of his property is *already* disposed of, you may add a little *codicil*, and make yourself principal *executor in trust*, and residuary legatee, by which means you may *pilfer* a little from *his family*, discharge their demands with proper *deductions*, and lastly put the remaining whole *in your own pocket*. A little *divinity* may also sometimes be found useful, but not so *profitable* as the *law*. If then your patient be so weak an *enthusiast* as to entertain any notions of *religion* in his last moments, you may acquiesce in the consolations you know to be *experimentally* derived from *that source*, and have an opportunity, as you cannot fleece him *yourself*, of recommending some *needy parson*, to give him ab-

solution, and *a passport to heaven*, and so put a trifling douceur in *his* way : this will be fulfilling one of the divine commands of *loving your neighbour*, and among the survivors to establish your name as a *truly pious good man*, equally anxious to promote the benefit and advantage of both *body* and *soul*. If, on the other hand, the *immortality of the soul*, and a *future state* should through life have been the objects of his contempt and derision, you can confirm him in so noble and *consolatory* a sentiment, by *laughing* at every thing *sacred* and *holy*, and strengthen his views, by reading, in due form and solemnity, extracts from those enlightened and philosophical authors, *Voltaire, Bolingbroke, Shaftesbury, Hume, Rochester, and Joe Miller* : this will be highly *comfortable* and edifying in *his* awful situation, and at the same time enhance *your* reputation as a man of enlarged *sentiments* and comprehensive *mind*, rising superior to the shackles of *bigotry* and *superstition*.

It cannot have escaped your notice to what an extraordinary degree of violence and length of duration a disease may frequently be protracted, particularly those of the *chronic* kind, as well as others which eventually have a *fatal* termination. You may therefore find yourself not uncommonly placed in such an awkward and trying situation ; where you have not only to encounter with an obstinate and invincible malady, but must also be liable to the nursing and *dissatisfied* remarks, both of the patient, as well

as his relatives. As long as there remains any prospect of a recovery, matters may be conducted pretty *quietly*, in the road to convalescence, and you pocket your fees with tolerable grace and good humour; but as soon as the disease has taken that unfortunate turn, as clearly to prove "*the doctor an ass,*" (a thing of no absolute difficulty *at all times,*) and *death* appears a more ready friend at hand than yourself, it is surprising what taunts, what scrutinizing and harassing perplexities a physician of *nice feelings* must positively be exposed to. Surrounded by such a series of afflicting circumstances, though you may experience much reluctance to withdraw your *necessary* attendance *vi et armis*, yet probably you would feel truly gratified, even with the suspension of *your fees*, to be exonerated from such a penance, could you devise a method of taking your leave with a *tolerable share of eclat*. In circumstances so truly galling to a man of *delicate sensibility*, a very plausible remedy is always within your reach: which is of that flattering and delusive kind, as will seldom fail of being eagerly embraced.

As soon then as you have drained your patient's pockets to the utmost, so much so as not to incur a suspicion of being *selfish* or *rapacious*, a character your *noble nature* would disgustingly recoil at; you may relieve yourself from your burthen by prescribing an immediate removal to a watering place or some remote part of the island, for the purpose of inhaling the renovating

life-giving breezes of the sea, with all the peculiar benefits of a fine country air; or in cases of *phthisis* to the more genial temperature of the Wells at Clifton; to which may be superadded the wonderful efficacy in such cases of Dr. Beddoes's *Pneumatic institution*; but on which of these may be decided, you must take especial care that you and the invalid are at so great a *distance*, that he may either die on the road, from the absolute effects of fatigue, or breathe his last soon after he reaches the place of his destination. In *asthmatic* as well as *consumptive* cases, which in London are increasingly prevalent, this will be found a very great accommodation for you: as a mild air and more temperate climate are peculiarly serviceable in *incurable consumptions*, you may send your patient to the coast of Devon, or about the borders of the Land's End, or to the recently discovered more salubrious spot of *Dartmoor*, and it is ten thousand to one in your favour, but you are thus effectually disengaged from all future inconvenience on this head. I forgot before just to give you a *valuable* hint, which is that you furnish your patients with an ample cargo of the *stramonium* or thorny apple, a medicine which has been lately proved capable of giving persons a *new pair of lungs*. If however, from any peculiar frolic of Dame Fortune, so unexpected an event should take place, as that the patient *should recover*, or return in a convalescent state, which may be very improbable after so copious and long continued *drenching*, you

to a certainty step in for *your* full share of credit, by the measures recommended, and when a *friendly relapse* occurs you may shew your face with a *good grace*, and plunder a little further.

You will occasionally meet with persons, who are ignorant enough to assert that *health* and *life* are equally the objects of desire with the *poor* as well as the *rich*, and will even be so fool-hardy, as to adopt such gross sentiments, and insist that an equal share of tenderness and humanity are as indispensable for the *one* as the *other*. I shall not trespass on your valuable time by attempting narrowly to investigate this position ; but of *one* fact you may feel a full and most perfect conviction, which is, that *they are not equally profitable*. As a physician whose skill has been emblazoned abroad (for *real merit*, you know will make its way) and whose very *name* is even sufficient to work very *miraculous cures*, will frequently be assailed by the complaints and murmurings of the *vulgar multitude*, it will be quite necessary you should be put in possession of an antidote against so execrable a boor.

The first thing therefore when you are solicited to *give your advice* to a *poor person*, is to satisfy yourself thoroughly that he cannot remunerate you as you expect, or that he has nothing *moveable* or of the least value that he could *pawn or sell*, to supply you with a *few fees*. You must also clearly ascertain that he has no *friends*, nor any person of *consequence* in the neighbourhood who has heard of and pitied his

calamity, lest you acquire the *unmerited* imputation of neglecting the poor because they cannot pay you handsomely for your trouble, and impeach your *general good name* among your patients, as a *very charitable, humane, worthy sort of a man*. Having then fully satisfied your mind on these several points, viz. that there is *no profit* to be gained, nor *reputation* to be lost, you may candidly *recommend* them where they will have the advantages of the *very best care* and advice, and immediately enforce their removal to some *hospital* or the *work-house*, the rules of which are in general as notorious for their *kindness* and *humane attention as yourself*. Our hospitals, in particular, with other charitable institutions, which so benevolently adorn the various parts of the kingdom, reflect the highest credit and philanthropy on their generous founders: but many of the poor, from over *shyness* or *modesty* feel frequently a great disinclination to avail themselves of the assistance they afford. It sometimes however happens that the resources (from the *prevailing sentiment* among the *noble* and *opulent*, particularly *placemen, pensioners and contractors, of charity beginning at home,*) are found inadequate to the numerous patients who present themselves for admission, or the duties become too *laboriously oppressive* to the medical and surgical attendants: in this case, the *usual* arrogance of coxcombical *puppies*, called *students*, with the supercilious, over-bearing, tyrannical despotism of *professors*,

will operate in most respects as an admirable protection against the abuse of real charity and diligent integrity ; for by rendering the situation as truly painful and irksome as possible, you may soon manage to curtail the number, save *your own labour*, and preserve the funds of the charity from being misapplied, or its laudable intentions perverted.

The crowded wards of a hospital or infirmary open an admirable stage, on which you may exhibit your skill and exercise your genius : it is *there* that you will be furnished with a perpetual store and source of intellectual advancement, with opportunities from which continual accessions of improvement will inevitably be obtained. In the *materia medica* new substances are from time to time introduced, new modes of combination, and preparation of medicines are discovered, and remedies before unknown are, as it were, concentrated and brought into general practice, after sufficient trials have been made on *hospital patients*, as to their properties and effects. Among other striking advantages peculiar to the practice of an hospital, may be reckoned the favourable opportunity which presents itself, in adding to the general stock of medical and surgical knowledge. In the management and conducting the *medical* department of such institutions, you will frequently meet with persons as destitute of *honour* as of *talents* : and to men of *such* a description, this will be found a very convenient situation, to conceal the effects of rash-

ness or *ignorance*; for in making the necessary *experiments*, in proving the qualities of medicines, should they *unavoidably* terminate in the *death* of some *obscure*, *friendless* and *unlamented* individual, among your *opulent* employers, you will feel very little inconvenience, either as to the *credit* or *emolument*, and as to your *poor* ones the sooner you get quit of *them* the better.

Another unspeakable privilege attending the *killing* a *poor* patient from any little trifling *mistake*, will be, that you furnish yourself and colleagues with an additional subject for anatomical *dissection*: from hence will be collected a very liberal portion of useful information, not only to *yourselves* but your *pupils* also, who by pursuing the suggestions of the *novum organum*, will be thus enabled to explore the *secret laws of nature*; and by the same judicious and prudential means, you relieve the charity from the expence of that *useless* and *superstitious* ceremony called a *funeral*. Whilst engaged on this part of our subject, I would hint another very prolific source of medical improvement, which is that of making various experiments on the bodies of animals, which, connected with the study of anatomy and physiology, will prove of the utmost importance. It has I know been held up to execration, by persons of too refined a sensibility, as more calculated to gratify an unwarrantable *curiosity*, or to establish some favourite hypothesis, than as *really useful*; but as your anxious concern is to develope every probable

means to mitigate the sufferings of human nature, and the danger of particular diseases, your first and last determination being solely directed to the discovery of *truth*; when these are applied as resulting from your diligence in such pursuits, and your endeavours are founded on rational analogies adopted after mature deliberation, attentively watched, and abandoned or preserved, according as circumstances dictate; surely after such evidences of their vast utility, no one would be so determinedly ridiculous, as to manifest the least repugnance, in giving *free* and *full* scope to such innocent and praiseworthy occupations.

But some writers have been weak enough to advance very considerable objections against making experiments on *living animals*, on the ground and principle of being opposed to *humanity*, which they have idly insisted ought to be extended equally to the *brute creation*, as to our fellow creatures, and as incapable of being thus *freely* adopted, without offering an unwarrantable degree of *violence* to our feelings. Under such a system of imposed restraint, in the deprivation of such experiments, an *effectual* barrier is erected against the progress of science, and with such indisputable advantages in perspective, why should the *feeling* of *animals* afford the least opposition to your *researches* and vigilant *enquiries*? What tortures and cruelties were inflicted by *Spallanzani*, *Cuvier*, *Hunter* and many other eminent naturalists unnecessary here to enumerate, on dogs, cats, frogs, birds, nay even insects,

for the purpose of diving into some deep arcana of nature, which with others might have remained for ever *inexplicable*.* How would the process of human *generation*, the distribution of the *nervous fluid*, the doctrine of the *humoral pathology* originally obscure, and concealed from mortal eyes, have become so *clear* and *thoroughly investigated* and *explained* as we now find them-- how, I repeat, would such *singularly important discoveries* ever have been made, were men weak enough to shrink from their duty, under a *timid disinclination* of putting animals to the most *deliberate torments*, and refinement of cruelty? For shame! *grave* and *mighty* doctors, arouse from your delirium; recollect the words of Virgil, which have ever been your motto, "*Rerum cognoscere causas;*" no longer be the dupes of such puerile reasonings, when you reflect that acts of this sort, are either performed for the sole purpose of exploring the deleterious effects of particular medicines; or on the principles of *comparative anatomy*: as *data* to prove and establish such hypotheses, as are

* As an example of this species of diving into nature's deep recesses, take the words of a great naturalist. "I took a large locust of the cape, opened its belly, and pulling out its intestines, filled the cavity with cotton! and in that state I fixed it at the bottom of a box with a pin, which passed through its thorax! In this situation it remained for five months, and at the end of that period it still moved both its legs and antenna. I transfixed other locusts in the same manner without opening their bellies, to try if I could stifle them!" SPALLANZANI.

analogous to the diseases incident, alas! to the sufferings of “*poor human nature.*”

At proper times and seasons, when your valuable time is not so thoroughly occupied, in dispensing health and life to the rich and opulent, a share of it may not be *improperly* employed, even under the colour of *charity*, in attending in some degree to the sick poor, whom you will sometimes find *impertinent* enough to be as importunate and solicitous for obtaining *relief*, as those who can well afford to *pay handsomely* for it. As a physician in every situation in which he is called on to exert his talents, should endeavour to palm himself on society, as a *mighty benevolent man*, so in the same ratio should he keep his eye steadily fixed on the *primum mobile* of all his actions, viz. *his own individual profit*. I may therefore briefly remark that *both these ends* may be very considerably promoted, by distributing your advice *gratis*, at your own *mansion*, on stated days of the week. Among the numerous flocks of people who will apply for your *kind assistance*, you will infallibly meet with some a little removed from the *most indigent class of poor*, who can just contrive by *hard labour* and industry to keep their heads above water, and from a kind of innate principle of pride, be emulous that their families as well as themselves should make a little decent and reputable appearance; from these you may frequently wring a solitary *half-guinea*, a *seven shilling piece*, a *dollar*, or even a *three shilling bank*

token, which every one will admit, is much better than *no fee at all*; but in common you will be considered as being stimulated to such *benevolence* on the *sole principle of charity*.

In the event of your being unable to extort any thing from the *miserably poor*, *openly*, you may with great ease contrive to pick their pockets *clandestinely*, without a shadow of suspicion being attached to your conduct, as follows. You will in the first instance endeavour to find out some *chemist*, as remarkable for his punctilious notions of *honour* and *integrity* as *yourself*, with whom you may enter into a league *for your pouudage*, (which I shall presently explain,) a very prevailing custom now a-days; and in the second place, lay your *positive command's* on delivering your prescriptions, that the medicines be procured *from him*, and no other place, as the *sine qua non* of their receiving farther assistance from *your hands*. In thus peremptorily enforcing this preliminary article, the *unsuspecting* and *unwary victimis* of your rapacity, will never venture any objection, particularly when you gravely assure them that the medicines can only be *procured there* perfectly genuine, or that some prominent *active ingredient* is contained in the prescription, which can only be obtained *at that place*, no other chemist being in possession of the *secret* for duly preparing it. For these *invaluable medicines* thus *faithfully prepared* by the *ingenious chemist*, under the direction of the *charitable physician*, these miserably deluded

and defrauded persons can have no *reasonable* objections to pay *double* or *treble* more in price, than would be charged by a *stupid, interested apothecary*.

The *plain fact* is this, the *honest chemist* will gladly allow *you* a *per centage* on all medicines dispensed at *this mill* by *your means*; and therefore *you*, as you thus go *snacks*, must on your part bully and compel all your patients without exception to further *him*, and *swallow as much medicine as possible*: and thus under colour of *giving advice gratis*, you will positively be pocketing more, than if you received an *occasional fee*.* With respect to your mode of writing your prescriptions, you must take good care that they be so ambiguously written and so formed and expressed by *hieroglyphics*, that no one except yourself and your worthy coadjutor the chemist can possibly understand them; and as no one else can *decypher* them, there will be little danger of any one coming in even for a small share of *the robbery* but yourselves. These *private marks* and *technical terms* must be at first previously arranged with your fellow plunderer, and then you may commence your depredations

* There are certain *eminent doctors* who make a very handsome thing of this *gratuitous practice*. I knew a "*great man now no more*," not a mile from Leicester Square, who *plundered the poor most unmercifully* in this way, but always retained the character of a *very charitable man, a very fine man too*; and was thus principally enabled to drive his chariot, and live in great style, though he knew as much of *medicine*, I apprehend, as he did of *common honesty*.

on the poor and pennyless with *due eclat* and success.

In these *crazy* times the occasionally appropriating your *shining parts* to the study of *mania*, will not be altogether an *unprofitable* speculation particularly if adopted and executed on the *PERFECT* model. As however there are certain distinctions and varieties of this disease, each varying from the other according to the *state* and *circumstances* of the patient, particularly as it respects the *depth of his pocket*, you will be required to exhibit very conspicuous proofs of your skill, when called on for your opinion, as to the prognostic or future progress of the complaint. In order, therefore, to place your *consummate* abilities and *superior sagacity* in the most manifest and striking *point of view*, your sentiments, like the oracles of the great patron of physic, must be delivered in the most vague manner, with great verbosity, and the most *mysterious* caution and prudence, and so completely inexplicable and unintelligible as to defy even the most *distant probability* of your ignorance being detected.

In maniacal cases, as well as in most others, you will always impress *the world* with a brilliant display of your medical *acumen*, by *finely drawing* your definitions and divisions of the malady, and so not only silence all *scrutinizing* enquiries, but your sophistry be fully applauded as the very *paragon*, the absolute *acme* of medical discernment. It has been stated, you will

no doubt recollect, in a *recent disastrous* case of mania, by which the people of these realms have been considerably agitated and distressed ; and sanctioned by a set of physicians, possessing the *most exalted* abilities, and *alike eminent* in *every* branch of medical knowledge ; that *delirium* is a disease *sui generis*, which on its cessation or suspension, left the *intellect unimpaired* : and that the human mind was liable to a state *intermediate* between *delirium* and *mania*.

Although I apprehend this to be certainly as *extravagant* a *sophism*, as these *shady* and *hurried* doctors could possibly have resorted to : yet in a case of *common* kind, it might with some plausibility have had the effect of concealing their blundering on the subject altogether ; but in having recourse to such *fine drawn* distinctions, these highly *illuminated* gentlemen did not probably recollect that they were broaching such doctrines, and advancing such opinions, to persons who were as capable of judging and detecting the absurdity *as themselves*, and have therefore not only convinced the *thinking* part of the public of their *real* state of darkness as to *mental* disease, but have exposed themselves to a considerable share of *pleasantry* and *ridicule*, for advancing an assertion, which, if possible, they would no doubt have very readily and *gladly retracted*.

It is a sentiment by no means *rare* or *singular*, that with regard to *mental diseases*, no very great degree of superfluous wisdom, no *extraordinary*

length of study or experience are required, for moderate talents competently to attain; for as affections or passions of the *mind*, are so intimately connected with, and allied to *corporeal* maladies, no great proportion of discrimination will be found indispensable, for being acquainted with *all that* is at present known on the subject. The principle to which I would wish to direct *your* attention, is first to consider well *to whom* you are giving your prognostic, before you presume to be *decisive* in delivering it; that is, whether it be to a set of people, as incorrigible blockheads as *yourself*, or to men who professing some moderate share of common sense and understanding, are capable in some good degree, of forming a *rational* estimate of what you advance, lest you unhappily be detected in your chicanery, and so become ultimately an object of *contempt* and derision. When however you find yourself very *hard pushed* on a similar occasion, it would, I think, be much to your credit, as well as peace, candidly to take shelter under your *avowed ignorance*, (as a certain *sapient doctor* lately did,) by honestly declaring you never saw a case of insanity in your life, than run the hazard of being scouted as well as *laughed at*, for a most egregious *coxcomb* and *foo!*.

Waving this digression, and reverting again to the subject before us, I must observe to you that patients of *this* description, are in common a very tolerably *promising* concern, both to the physician as well as the apothecary; and acting

in unison and concert with each other, may easily contrive to render them *mutually beneficial*. The apothecary is pretty well convinced, that the assertions or declarations of *madmen* or ideots are seldom paid much attention to ; that remonstrances with *friends* or *relatives* are for the most part generally unavailing ; and therefore, he can *drench* his patient *ad libitum*, till he is full to the chin ; when then any impediment arises to check him in his career, he has nothing to do but to report to the lunatic's friends, or guardians, the absolute necessity for the assistance of a physician ; who, if not interrupted by the *undertaker*, must be as *mad* as his patient, if he has not acquired the most ready and easy method of filling his *own*, and the *apothecary's* pockets.

As mania is a disease usually, though *erroneously* considered rather distinct and unconnected with the study and pursuit of the general practitioner, and as it should be your invariable maxim to take all fish that come to hook, waving the Esculapian wand with equal facility and address *in all diseases*; every honourable means should be resorted to, for the purpose of *dissipating* so serious and *groundless* a prejudice, as that *lunacy* must require any particular quantum of medical skill and penetration, to manage *successfully*; particularly when you recollect that from some *unforeseen* happy freak of the blind goddess, who can say but that your splendid talents may luckily be transplanted

from the purlieus of *Bedlam* or *St. Luke's*, to the precincts of a palace? At all events, it will be desirable to make as much noise and clamour as possible, by sounding the tocsin of your own superior individual qualifications, and endeavouring to frighten the world *vi et armis* into a conviction of your being a *nonpareil* in these matters, by every *stratagem* and *device* in your power. To effect this grand design, you may in the first instance commence operations, by publishing very copiously as well as frequently, your singularly rare observations on the *particular* treatment and management of *lunatics*; and to convince the public of your superior ability for the task, be sure to condemn and reprobate *every other publication* on the subject. As I before observed, it is by no means necessary that *you* should be qualified to write *yourself*, or that *you* should ever have seen a case of mania in your life; you may, like Dr. B—— of *nervous cerebral celebrity*, either find out some *good apothecary*, or miserable scribbler in the sky parlours of *Grub Street*, who will thank you for throwing such a snug job in his way. In this respect, as in others, no impeachment of your *honour*, no dereliction of the moral ties, should ever stand in the way of your *interest*.

I have sometimes known a medical practitioner make out a very *decent job* in some cases of *madness*, in several other ways than above recited, two of which, peculiarly interesting

and worth attention, are as follows: It is far from a very uncommon occurrence, for a person of good fortune to be deprived of it altogether, by the *prudent vigilance* of his nearest relatives, under an imputation of *madness*, and consequent incapacity of managing and directing it himself. There can be no manner of doubt, but that there have been many *well attested* cases, where there was no other trace of a disordered intellect, than what absolutely arose from, and was induced by the *circumstances* of the case; such as being *robbed* of their whole property, and treated afterwards with the most *cruel* and *wanton* barbarity, by those who undertake to assume the care and superintendence of them.

It is in such a *critical* situation of affairs, that the physician discovers a most valuable opportunity for the exercise of his *rare talents*, his *humanity*, and his *honourable* disinterested conduct. The next a kin of a *wealthy* man, feel a very *laudable* desire to *take care* of his fortune; and therefore, that he may have a protecting power, of guarding him against fraud and rapine, it becomes a matter of downright necessity that the *unsuspecting* proprietor be shut up and *imprisoned* in some private mad-house; where, if he be not *really* mad, a little gentle correction, starvation, and solitary confinement, may, if *perfectly sane* before, drive him into as high a paroxysm of insanity as can be reasonably wished for.

It is however to be well remarked, that it is

absolutely necessary, previous to the adoption of these *lenient* and justifiable measures for *his own* and family's advantage, that the sanction of a physician be obtained, in order to give them a currency in *law*, without which there would be a hazard of considerable risk and danger. In this state of the business, the *affectionate* relatives of the unfortunate *supposed* maniac, *must* of course comply with the *reasonable* requisitions of the *doctor*; and as *you* must be sensible, that it is but fair you should come in for a slice of the *booty*, you will be wise enough to suspend *your* signature till a *snug douceur* is slipped into your *fist*, or some adequate security given for the same. Many a husband, many a wife, and father, have by this method got rid of their nearest and most dear relatives, who have never, except by *accident*, escaped the clutches of the *harpies*, to whose kind and amiable protection they were originally consigned; and thus as *necessary auxiliaries* to the transaction, the doctor and the apothecary can generally render it a *tolerably lucrative* concern. Sometimes, indeed, the *supposed* maniac may tempt you with a larger bribe for *his release*, than you were to receive for his *detention*; in this case having secured the wages of the *former* transac-
tion, you may, under a plea of *feeling for distress*, and a suspicion of the person's *sanity*, acquiesce with his liberation, for a *handsome compensation*, which to his *deliverer* he will very *gratefully* bestow; and so you *kill two birds with one stone*:

in either case *you* finger his property, with scarcely a possibility of detection.*

There is an indispensable *trifling form*, that persons keeping houses for the reception of lunatics, should take out an annual licence, in order that *improper* persons may not be immured within their walls, without ample proof of its *absolute* necessity. In this way, you may now and then, slip a few notes into your pocket, by not appearing too *scrutinizing* and *inquisitive*, with respect to the patients. The keeper is required honestly to declare the number of his *mad* inmates, and the physician is to visit the *receptacle* occasionally, to ascertain that no abuses really exist; but, if in such cases, you have all *your senses* about you, and the *gentle keeper* instead of being niggardly *parsimonious*, comes down tolerably liberal, with a reciprocal good understanding between all parties; this will turn out a very productive *job*: and no less so, if the *friends* of a

* I knew a case somewhat in point a few years since, where a certain deceased nobleman for some unknown reason wished to disinherit his *eldest son*, that his second might enjoy the *title* and *estate*. To efee this design, he caused the unfortunate young man to be immured in a *private mad house* several years, till the rigour of his confinement, and the barbarous usage he suffered, sent him effectually out of the way. There could be no question but the much injured youth was perfectly free from every tincture of insanity; but the *father* would have it so, the physician sanctioned it, and was well rewarded for his *humanity*, in seeing that proper *castigation*, and *low living* were properly enforced. Who, let me ask, could judge of the fact so *properly* as the *affectionate father*, and the *sapient disinterested doctor*; and who more deserving a *handsome reward* than the *latter*, and that enhanced in its value by the accompaniment of a *halter*?

patient are anxious from *disinterested* motives of keeping him secure in *durance vile*; when they will seldom be so remiss, as not to recollect the necessity of *liberal* and *repeated fees*.

Again, an order to admit a person into one of *these dungeons*, must accompany the person who is thus to be comfortably taken care of; that is, such *order* must contain the signatures of the physician and apothecary, who have previously, in order to indemnify and keep harmless the *tender-hearted* keeper, from the iron grasp of *the law*, by asserting and declaring on their *honourable* testimony, the *fitness* of the person for *his* accommodation. It is by no means a *rara avis* in the world, that a gentleman may be *blessed* with a turbulent loquacious wife, a *little* partial to the *brandy bottle*; or a *chaste* wife may be perplexed with an antiquated *rich* husband, who may stand in the way of one *younger*, to whom she may give a decided *preference*. Now in either of these, or many other similar cases, as the matter can by no means be *fully* accomplished without the aid of the *doctor*, it would surely be the most ill judged unreasonable thing in the world, that *he* should not be handsomely rewarded, for his kind interference; in releasing either party, from what must necessarily be so truly *obnoxious* and *disgusting*.

In the conduct and management of matters of this sort, the physician is seldom so blind to his own emolument, as not, on the one hand, to blend his advantage with that of the unhappy suf-

ferer; for *he* is provided with every comfort and luxury so commonly found in a mad house, “*quamdiu se bene gesserit*,” whilst the principal agent in his happiness, receives a liberal douceur for his humanity, to the mutual accommodation and good understanding of *all parties* concerned. There are several other circumstances in this department of practice, which hold out many *equally profitable* and honourable equivalents, which may appear unnecessary for me here *individually* to particularize, as practice and due observation must in time render them *duly familiar*. I can only, to these hints, repeat one short admonition, which is, that *on no account* you permit any punctilious or absurd notions of honour or conscience, to stand opposed to your progress to preferment; for the inevitable consequence of such folly will be, that you will be left with most other *honourable gentlemen*, to starve in obscurity, till to your severe mortification, you find your abilities eclipsed by some illiterate pretender, who with less conscience, but more *impudence*, has prudence and wisdom sufficient to fall in with, and give *his aid* to the *vices* and depraved inclinations of his employers.

The last but not least important subject to which I would wish to claim your attention, is that of participating in the merited *honour* of the great, as well as of acquiring riches. In order, therefore, to be put in a train for acquiring this climax of all other *honourable fame*, you will, by every *art* in your power, endeavour to

procure an appointment of physician in *ordinary* or *extraordinary* to some of the branches of the *high and mighty*, which, if with your friends and connections you are on the right side of the post, and your name never appeared on the *black list*, as favouring and abetting men of such *vicious* propensities as Sir Francis Burdett, and others of the same reforming stamp, may through the medium of a little *borough* or *corporation* interference, not be *altogether* insurmountable. You will, however, very readily feel a conviction, that the *air of a court* is so refined and immaculate, that nothing short of absolute *purity itself*, but must wither and decay within its influence. As *you* in *your* passage through life, have ever maintained and established your character for strict propriety, honest inflexible *integrity*, and noble *independence*, there can be no danger of *your* feeling any inconvenience on this head, or of a repulse, when your patron takes it upon himself to introduce you to the *motley circle*.

That the high and mighty title of Sir A. B. Knt. or Bart. physician in *ordinary* or *extraordinary* to the * * *, or * * * of * * *, is an object of laudable ambition, of very singular gratification and importance, no one will presume to negative; yet even this, if not attainable on terms of *strict honour*, and *conscious rectitude*, *your* noble mind would, I am well convinced, recoil and spurn at such a prospect. It is certain and notorious, that *honours* of most kinds have been

occasionally obtained by other means besides an *independent spirit* or general acknowledged merit. Some physicians have crept into *titles* by marrying some emaciated, *diseased sprig of nobility*; others by being subservient tools to the minions of office; and others *through the pure medium of disinterested influence*: to all or each of which, *you* would no doubt feel an invincible opposition. As through every walk and department of life, your invariable motto has been "*sola nobilitas virtus*," "*et honor virtutis premium*," I know no better method of success in acquiring such enviable distinction, than through the kind assistance of the *chaste Mrs. C——*, or some such amiable personage, who from a conviction of your merit, by long and *tried services*, would certainly accomplish your object on *moderate terms*, particularly if you have it in your power to accommodate her paramour with the loan of a few thousands in return. As the *graces* cannot be supposed to have been much courted by a *gentleman*, whose time and attention have been *entirely devoted to study*, and *benefiting his fellow creatures*, I would recommend you previous to making *your bow*, and *kissing fists*; that you take a few lessons of the *dancing master*, which may be obtained at Mr. Hopkins's academy for *grown persons*, on easy terms; and when your ears are vibrating with the thrilling sound of "*arise Sir A. B. Knt. or Bart.*" you may be enabled to hobble through the *farce* with sufficient credit as well as *eclat*.

Having thus reached the very *pinnacle* of your long desired exaltation, you will in the assumption of your *new dignity*, confine your practice to the *haut ton*; nor should any thing beneath a title, equal with *your own*, at least, ever be an object of your attention. By a few *fascinating* manners, united with a scrupulous adherence to the principles already laid down, you will, sallying forth from the *palace* under the auspices of the mighty and powerful, undoubtedly become a most *fashionable* physician, bearing down all opposition to your celebrity; and if you have address enough to flatter the pampered vices of the *noble*, nothing is to be apprehended on the score of *real* abilities; you launch a new equipage, attend and bow at the *levees*, smile with and flatter the minister; and with such qualities as these, it is hard indeed, if you should meet with any opposition, particularly when your list of patients is made up of all the fashionable names in London, from the *intriguing* duchess of the west, down to a *fat Lady Mayoress*, the *Flower* and pride of the east.

To conclude—I have now I believe conducted you through most of the *principal* subjects, which bear a relation to the conduct and character of an honourable physician. There are no doubt some others of *minor* consideration, in which your own good sense will point out ample direction and guidance; for if you are *well grounded* in matters of the *first* consequence, it must naturally follow, that other *little* auxilia-

ries will come readily within the reach of your vast and comprehensive mind. He who is well qualified to cure an acute *dangerous* disease, must be supposed to be fully competent to administer a simple carthartic or emetic: so he who has learned the art of picking the pockets of the *wise and great*, must of course be well skilled in plundering and robbing the *multitude at large*. I shall only add a few words on the subject of retiring from the labours of an honourable profession, and submit every thing else to *your own enlightened judgment* and sound discretion.

I have heard it *ignorantly* enough asserted by some persons, that, on the approach of the infirmities of age, accompanied with a declension or *extinction* of the faculties, a physician ought to feel no reluctance in resigning his charge to the care and superintendence of his successors. That in the decline of life and strength, when the memory is worn out, he should not persevere in retaining that practice, for which his own good sense would clearly point out his incapacity; and which habit or solicitations of old friends or connections, might induce him to continue *long after the period*, which in justice to them, and respect to himself, he ouglit voluntarily to have declined.

With a sentiment so absurd as this, I must be free enough *in toto* to disagree, and enter my decided protest against a doctrine so fraught with mischief and inconvenience. I therefore, in opposition to such a dogma, consider it your

bounden duty, without any restrictions or limitations as to age or any thing else, to persevere in your system of plunder, as long as you have strength or capability to crawl, and you can meet with persons fools enough to endure your imposition. Possessing such a fund of pure and chaste principles as have always characterized your conduct, the mere killing a few persons annually or monthly, on account of your faculties being defunct, should never be put in competition with continuing your depredations to the very last ; and therefore, as long as people are willing to give, you will no doubt be equally willing to receive ; and prove, *ad infinitum*, that you have in the course of a long extended and honourable practice, been actuated and guided by one system of purity, an undeviating integrity, and ingenuous disinterestedness.

Without professing to be a rigid moralist, yet after a life spent in uses, and regulated by every thing that is truly amiable and virtuous, you will hardly fail of enjoying the greatest felicity which a man can possibly experience on this side the grave. In a retrospect of your past life, you will feel the inexpressible pleasure, the “*mens concia recti*,” of having fulfilled your duty to the uttermost in every relative situation, in which you have been placed. This will unquestionably immortalize your name, with an admiring and grateful world ; and secure your more perfect and permanent happiness in another state, when time itself shall be no more.

Of the Surgeon.

A surgeon, like the physician, who grounds his hopes on, and pretensions to a lucrative and more successful practice, on the *mere simple basis* of his own sterling merit and profundity of knowledge, will nine times in ten to his severe mortification discover that he has formed visionary notions and ideas on the subject, which never will nor can be realized; and that however capacious his understanding, however cultivated and matured his judgment, if he possess an *honest, open, ingenuous heart*, and feel reluctant in flattering and falling in with the vices and capricious whimsicalities of his employers, he has yet a very difficult and extensive task to learn, without which he may be left in obscurity, to squander his time in ignoble inactivity and *hopeless penury*.

Now with respect to this art or science (if I may so term it,) of *pleasing mankind*, the same routine of conduct, the same short maxims laid down for the conduct and guidance of the physician, will equally apply in the practice of surgery, and *without which* all attainments, all superiority of ability, will be vain and unavailing. As I have dwelt particularly on these subjects, under the office and duties of the physician, it will of course not be considered necessary to repeat them here, but shall refer the reader to that part of the work for the information required, passing on to the several circum-

stances to be attended to, peculiar to the occupation of the *general surgeon*.

As the subject or science of anatomy should with propriety form the basis of all medical knowledge, it has been insisted on by writers on this subject, how truly and absolutely necessary it is that a surgeon should cultivate a very minute and enlarged acquaintance with this branch of science, because although the *physician* may not from thence learn altogether the application of proper remedies for the cure and prevention of diseases, yet that it will assuredly conduct the *surgeon* to a right and clear understanding of their seat, with the influence of such disorders on the various functions of the animal machine.

In the application of this argument to general purposes, it is to be understood by the term anatomy, the art of dissecting the human body, with a view of exploring and demonstrating the structure, shape, situation and economy of different parts: that this beneficial end may be in some measure obtained in a *general cursory manner*, an attendance at an anatomical theatre, where these points are amply elucidated on the dead subject; but in order to arrive at a finished and *eminent* degree of knowledge and perfection in this art, it has been asserted by some authors that it is absolutely necessary for a surgeon to pass a considerable portion of his time in the *dissecting room*: where by unwearied application and diligence, under the immediate tuition of

the professor or demonstrator, every necessary information will be obtained; such as a comprehensive knowledge of the peculiar structure of each part, its appropriate use, the functions it performs, its connection with and influence on other parts, and how dependant every distinct portion is on others, for the action of the whole; all which, as being obviously *important*, are declared to be objects of the very first consideration and consequence.

The above is the outline of a plan *usually* laid down as the most proper line of conduct: *this* may perhaps suit the grovelling plodding ideas of the *million*, but to *your* very elevated understanding, this will evidently appear inapplicable to *superior capacities*, though true in many respects. You will therefore by no means judge it necessary to incumber *your brains* with such commonplace theories, when a more familiar and *ready way* of proceeding is always at hand, and you can furnish yourself with every thing required, on this head, by availing yourself of a little assistance from the plodding industry of a fellow student, many of whom may at any time be procured by a little pecuniary remuneration; and as to any little *harmless blunder*, such as that of innocently mistaking a nerve for a blood-vessel, or puncturing an artery for a vein, that is in itself so very trifling and insignificant, as to bear no sort of comparison with the drudgery, filth and inconvenience, of spending several hours daily, in a dirty, unwholesome dissecting room.

A surgeon who is emulous to excel in his profession, and fill his pockets *ad libitum* at the expense of the public, must indispensably possess by *nature*, or acquire *artificially* the following brief qualifications; namely, the *unfeeling brutality* of a butcher, the *bold heart* and undaunted courage of a highwayman, the *wary caution*, penetrating foresight and deliberation of a general at the head of an army. He must be intrepid, resolute, and undismayed, either by the apprehension of danger, or the loss of *life or character*. He should never suffer any nonsensical notions of *feeling* or *sympathy* for the distresses of others, to weigh in his mind, when called on to discharge his duty with fidelity and alacrity. He should be expert in handling the knife and saw, and never feel backward in *using* them *on all* occasions, totally unconcerned by circumstances and *disdainful of consequences*.

It has been universally considered, (and with great truth and propriety too,) as a very essential requisite in a good surgeon, that he should possess the rare qualification of being capable of *performing an operation* with dexterity and facility; to acquire which, must readily be supposed the effect of repeated trials, in the course of continued practice. As *dead persons* are not in common very apt to incommod you, or be troublesome by their *groundless fears* and *futile prejudices*, it will be strikingly evident that you are to commence your practice in the course of study, first, on the *dead subject*, till you have be-

come properly initiated in the art of using the knife, and *hacking and hewing* with alertness and dexterity; and afterwards on *the living*, which will of necessity clearly point out to your understanding and good sense, the propriety and advantage of your *cutting, mangling, and lopping every patient*, whom either chance or accident *fortunately places under your superior direction.*

It has indeed been asserted by persons of *narrow minds* and *contracted understandings*, that a surgeon will never be capacitated thoroughly to pursue a disease in all its bearings and consequences, unaccompanied with the most careful and studious discrimination of cause and effect; without the attentive examination of the influence of an injury on the most distant parts; to a mind rising infinitely superior to such *vulgar prejudices*, you will never surely perplex your ideas, or shackle your understanding with such an absolute farrago of ridiculous absurdities, when perhaps your *simply docking a person of a limb or two*, would cure and completely remove that injury in a month, which in less skilful hands might unnecessarily be protracted even to a year or two, and after all remain incurable, without having recourse to *the knife*. It will, therefore, under such circumstances I believe be readily admitted, except by those who are determined to resist the evidence of their senses, that it is much more prudent you should *trifle a little with the patient's life*, or send him to the other world with a *mangled and mutilated body*, than that for the sake

of *public* advantage, you should remain deficient in practical experience—lose the opportunity of insuring a high reputation, and of manifesting your decided excellence in exemplifying your judgment, and in performing an operation with peculiar neatness and dexterity: indeed, in my *single* opinion, nothing can more poignantly wound and afflict a *feeling heart*, than the idea of suffering a person to languish in pain and distress for an indefinite period, month after month, when the whole mischief might be *totally eradicated* in half an hour. A *timid* scrupulousness on this head, with a reluctance and delay in performing operations *too frequently* evinced by many surgeons, even such as rank high in the public estimation, is by no means unusually productive of the most melancholy and *fatal* consequences. No one therefore who is even *moderately* adroit in handling the *knife*, should ever feel the least tardiness or disinclination to *apply it*; as a recollection of one *premature death* arising from such neglect, will be more lacerating to a *humane susceptible* mind, than a hundred patients being hurried to their graves, from performing an operation *too speedily, or altogether unnecessarily.*

There are also many other pre-requisites which will present themselves to your penetration and inquisitive sagacious *mind*, to which I would direct your attention, which though of *minor* consideration, yet as constituting the peculiar province of a surgeon of *eminence*, are on no account to be entirely overlooked, or passed by with in-

difference. One of the first of these is, that you endeavour to possess an acuteness and nicety in *the sense of feeling*; I do not allude to the sensations of *sympathy or humanity*—these to a surgeon, (as before remarked) are to form no part of his credenda, nor to be admitted into his catalogue of maxims: what I particularly here refer to by *feeling*, is more properly and emphatically designated the *touch*, or acquiring an auxiliary to the forming your judgment by the assistance of your nerves at your *finger ends*. A proper acquaintance with this circumstance, will to the surgeon be frequently found of the first importance; so much so, that in many instances it is even to be appreciated as superior to the *sense of sight*, and will always be a most useful and safe guide in directing the *force and strength of your hand*, when applying any surgical instrument.

As in the performance of all operations, a *steady hand* and composed undisturbed *mind* are to be considered as most essential requisites, you will banish from your constitution (so far as depending on physical causes) every emotion arising, or suggesting itself from *doubt or fear*, and never lapse into that most fatal, though very prevailing error, of allowing yourself to be ruffled or agitated from so frivolous and *mean* a degree of *pusillanimity*, but with the most undaunted courage, and fixed determination of purpose, to cut and slash away with the utmost *coolness and deliberation*, alike disdainful of and indifferent to the *uproarious exclamations* of the patient, or

abashed by the intrusive sensations of what is *falsely*, though frequently denominated *sympathy* and *humanity*, from a conviction of the pain and distress he is at this period enduring under *your infliction*.

Be it also worthy your recollection, at all seasons, and under the most unforeseen and unexpected occurrences, that you endeavour always to have *your wits about you*, that you may by no sudden surprize be caught tripping. Should it therefore at any time be determined on by your coadjutors, that an operation should be fixed on for performing, succeeding a *harmless debauch* over night, which having a tendency sometimes so to discompose your *nervous system*, as to induce a *trembling hand*, a motion for postponement, by the invention of some plausible excuse, will be most *clearly obvious*. Or should such appointment at all be probable to interfere with some *drunken bout*, to which you are previously engaged, this will also readily suggest the *propriety* as well as *necessity* of devising and framing some cogent excuse and evasion; for surely it must be readily acknowledged by the most *sceptical person* on earth, that it is much more *reasonable* that your patient should be exposed to the probable hazard of his *life* by the postponement, than that *you* should run so great a risk of your character, as that of the imputation of *killing* him by some *drunken blunder*, and so your good name be fatally, though *undeservedly* completely aspersed and degraded, or that *you* should

allow any insignificant occurrence of *this sort* to clash with, or supersede your pleasures and *innocent amusements*. Indeed on the score of your own individual *profit* it would be quite a *buc- bear*; for who can tell but that you may thus come in for a *job or two*, by sending away some of your *genteel* companions with broken heads or mangled limbs? or who would lay you under such unjust and illiberal *restrictions*, as that of depriving you of the qualification of staggering to bed *beastly drunk*? I am certainly well aware, that there are many surgeons of eminence who cannot perform an operation to *their own satisfaction*, till they are what is termed *half seas over*; this indeed is an *ample excuse* for adopting so *necessary* a practice. Should you then rank among this number, it cannot be imagined, that I would wish to enforce on your attention a *rigid observance* of the virtue of *temperance*, and an *improper degree* of abstemiousness, to the manifest discomposure of your *nerves*, as well as the injury of your reputation, and the decided detriment of your *patient*: what I would simply as a friend offer you as my advice, is not that your *laudable* motives and inclinations should be opposed, but rather that the business should be deferred *pro tempore*, or *sine die*, should you happen to find yourself rather *too far gone*, or feel the unpleasant effects of a disordered or *double vision*.

One of the most disagreeable impediments, which a surgeon can experience in the course

of his practice, is that of being *examined* and *cross-questioned* by the patient and his relatives, as to the probable result of *submitting to an operation*, and this if not judiciously and cautiously managed, you will frequently find a source of considerable annoyance and perplexity. In the event of such trouble and inconvenience occurring, the shortest and most expeditious method of getting rid of all such impertinent interruptions, is, by every plausible pretence and *affectionate* display of concern, to animate them, as well as the patient's hopes, by picturing to their imagination the most lively portraiture of the *advantage* as well as *indispensable necessity* for the operation being performed, carefully and artfully concealing and keeping from their view, every candid display of unfavourable or probable untoward circumstances, with every suggestion, which might have a tendency to create doubt or despondency, as to the *most probable* issue of it.

Your principal and most material object being that of acquiring the reputation and character of a man of *consummate skill*, as *an operator* even without a *parallel*; and as such, to have your name canvassed, and your *fame* loudly trumpeted abroad, every thing calculated to excite any symptoms of repugnance in the patient to acquiesce with your proposals, which most unquestionably in so doing you will be supposed to have a single eye *to his sole good and benefit*, is by every stratagem and finesse you can invent,

to be *carefully removed*; for should he unfortunately *breathe his last* under the operation, or from the unsuspected effects of your *absolute ignorance*; still as *dead men* are not usually given to an over *loquaciousness or garrulity*, it will be very readily credited, as you no doubt will be diligent in asserting, that the disease was of too *desperate* a nature to admit of being cured, and his constitution too far *exhausted* to expect the wished for recovery. Besides, should even *this* be suspected as to its veracity, you have always a most undenialble resource at hand, if required, which is, that the operation was too long delayed from the sole cause of the patient's unwillingness to submit to it sooner; and *the world*, censorious as it is, may generally be quieted, by persuading them that it was much more eligible that he should be sent to *his grave* mutilated of *his limbs*, than you lose or omit any *favourable opportunity* of sounding the tocsin of *your praise*.

Strange and unaccountable as you may suppose the position, yet you will suspend your surprize, when I assure you most confidently, that you will not unfrequently be posed by the occurrence of circumstances the very *reverse and opposite* to what I have before related, from which you will be extremely liable to much chagrin and inconvenience. A patient who has long laboured under the effects of some painful local disease, will sometimes put you to *your wits end*, particularly if not very *expert at operations*, by being officiously *importunate* to be operated on, when

his pain and agony have almost driven him to *distraction*, as some reasonable grounds of *relief* are afforded him in such an event. For example, a man who has suffered for years, by the torture and misery of a stone in the urinary bladder, by the hydrocele, hernia, and many other complaints equally probable of being relieved by *surgical assistance*, will place you in this awkward predicament, who had rather risk the hazard and contingency of a *severe* operation, than go on to an unlimited period, with no prospect of his misery being otherwise brought to a termination. In performing the operation of lithotomy, or that for the hydrocele, hernia, cataract, and others, where considerable judgment and nice discrimination are necessarily required, and where from your inability to undertake them, you wish to elude his request, or where in attempting them, the man *loses his life* from your stupidity, and you are then apprehensive of being charged by the *scrutinizing and officious* beholders, or relatives, with *absolute murder* from your palpable ignorance; it then becomes a matter of indispensable necessity, that you should ingeniously be furnished with some prompt and effectual means for *getting out of the scrape*, without giving the least grounds of suspicion, as to the *real motives* which thus influence your conduct.

To accomplish even so *trifling and simple* an object as this appears to be, you will really sometimes in this respect, experience as much difficulty, and have as many *prejudices* to en-

counter, in order to persuade the person *to postpone* the operation, as in the former case, your ingenuity was puzzled, to enforce a ready compliance to *submit* to one; however, even *this* with a little timely address and circumspection, is by no means an insurmountable difficulty, and to be effected if prudently managed, without the least impeachment of your *judgment and talents*.

In the event of your *friendly and disinterested* admonitions being so far slighted and disregarded, that in defiance of all the risk and danger you have exhibited and pointed out, the patient should persist firm and inflexible to his *determined* purpose, you may first endeavour by every expedient you can devise, to shake and intimidate his resolution, and alarm and harrow up *his fears*, which may sometimes be successfully effected in the following manner. In the first place, you are to commence your scheme by making as much *terrific* parade and display of knives, saws, scissars, lancets, gorgets, and other unsightly instruments as possible, and being invested with the paraphernalia of your office, such as the apron, sleeves, &c. to resemble as much as possible the appearance of a *butcher* or *executioner*, you may make such oblique observations to your coadjutors, on the attendant *danger* and uncertainty after all, of the result of the operatiōr, as must (if the patient be not proof against his danger, and absolutely insane,) eventually strike him with *horror*—compel him to

further *deliberation* on the subject, and thus *your designs* are completely effected.

But after all this display, which one would suppose sufficient to alarm and depress the stoutest and most *determined* resolution, yet even this will not unfrequently prove completely ineffectual. In so unpleasant a situation, you have nothing left for *your escape*, but positively to decline proceeding *vi et armis*, and with a few manœuvres, and little *winning artifices*, you may even here get *your neck out of the halter*. As thus, having every thing fully prepared and ready for proceeding in the business, you can easily discover some sudden *dangerous symptom*, which in going on with the operation, might expose your patient to the hazard of *instant death*. This notion will be corroborated and assisted by a few trifling auxiliary *conundrums*, such as feeling the pulse with a significant *shake of the head*, putting on a very *lengthened visage*, and asking with affected gravity a long list of questions, entirely foreign to the subject, but absolutely necessary for your purpose, and then make a positive declaration that as you value *your own character* and credit, as well as *his welfare*, and as there would be but little doubt of his *dying* under your hands, it *must* be suspended at least *for the present*, till it can be resorted to under more *auspicious* circumstances. You can also add, that as you wish most sincerely to appear before him as the harbinger of mercy to effect his *deliverance*, and anxious to rescue him from all chance

of danger, and not to deprive him *wilfully of existence*, the operation must really and truly be deferred to some more *favourable opportunity*, which *never arrives*, for its ten to one but that death is before hand with you, the unhappy victim probably expires in an *unmangled state*, and you obtain deliverance from your most troublesome situation. At any rate *you* wind yourself out of the hobble, and they may *get into it* for you, who can manage it with more prudence, caution, and disinterested propriety.

As injuries of *the head* form a very frequent and alarming species of accident, particularly among the lower orders of society, especially where it is not strikingly remarkable for its *thickness and strength*, you might with propriety accuse me of a flagrant breach of duty, were I to omit offering a few remarks on the subject for your edification and improvement. If then at any time you should be solicited to attend a person with a fractured cranium, for example's sake, the *prime minister* of any great state, or any potent mighty *pander of a court*, who from the mere effect and impulse of the *law of gravitation*, and the peculiar weight and preponderance of their *upper story*, are in an especial and high degree liable to so dreadful a species of *calamity*; you will be presented with a rare and unspeakable opportunity not only of exemplifying your *extraordinary skill* as an operating surgeon, but also of perpetuating *your fame*, by rendering the patient a very peculiar and permanent service

and obligation. In most cases of injury applied to the head, whether from fracture or depression of the cranium, or the more formidable mischief of concussion of the brain, your first and principal resource will be to proceed with all dispatch to the operation of *trepanning the skull*, for the purpose of elevating the depressed portion of it, or removing any extraneous substance which may have found its way on the membranes, such as extravasated blood or the like, as well as to explore the seat and extent of the injury.

As *the head* with some people, especially in those before alluded to, is not unfrequently *extremely thick and substantial*, your trephine should always be kept in remarkable *good order*, that you may exercise it with as much facility, and as little pain and inconvenience as you possibly can, or as the case may require. In most accidents of this sort, according to the doctrine of the *immortal Pott*, this is an operation which will scarcely ever admit of being dispensed with; and as he no doubt found the very eminent usefulness and high necessity for *scalping and trepanning* every poor wretch who had the good fortune to come under his clutches, having previously received a *tolerable rap* on the head, after so great and *indisputable authority*, you can advance no reasonable objection to fall in, and acquiesce with so beneficial a *practice*, as being the best and most eligible for affording the sufferer the most prompt and *effectual relief*.*

* See Mr. Pott's work on this subject, and you will discover

Whilst adverting to this operation of *boring and scalping* the head, permit me here briefly just to hint to you, that at this juncture you have a most favourable moment for rendering your patient a very *essential service*, for if in the course of proceeding with the operation, you should perchance discover, or that he should appear to you to possess any *superabundant quantum of brains*, you may then be his *true friend*, in releasing, and ridding him of *some proportion* of the exuberance. Or should you even find out, that what portion of that necessary article he has, should be amalgamated, or incumbered with *lead or mud*, you may by the assistance of the *recent improvements in chemistry*,* per-

whether he ever scalped and bored any heads without the most cogent and decisive proofs of the necessity for so doing:

* In which noble science many a duel has been effected between the professor and dame nature; where the poor lady has been so incarcerated in retorts and alembics, so soured into acids, and burnt to alkalies; so refrigerated in the vacuum of air pumps and fevered in furnaces, that the venerable matron so cruelly handled, after an alarming struggle of self defence, has at length become *quietly decomposed*, and submitted tamely to the caprices of her tormentors. A chemical experiment like the *trick of a juggler*, is extremely well calculated to make the vulgar stare, for in it an attempt is made to render *nature herself unnatural*; though I apprehend the appellation of *conjuror* to many of our professed chemists may very frequently be misapplied. This observation has I think been amply verified among the members of the Royal Institution, and other learned societies, who in the present refined and sublimed age, (are not like Bacon and Newton) content with exploring nature in her *private recesses*, and enjoying her as a *mistress*, but have resolved to degrade her to a *maid of all work*, and compel her as it were to *labour*, to betray her own *secrets*? Dear nature! mayst thou outlive the ephemeral existence of thy puny experimentalists.

fectly neutralize and decompose the one, or by clearing away some of *the rubbish* by the *manual operation*, at last perfectly liberate him from the other, and thus restoring the equilibrium between *head and heels*, render him less liable to such accidents in future, and at the same time conferring on the community an unspeakable blessing.

If, however, on the other hand it should be clearly manifest to your *superior* penetration and sagacity, that there is a *deficiency* in this heterogeneous combustible article called *brains*, even on this view of the case you have it in your power to apply a most admirable palliative remedy, with which you may then assist him, though probably not with the full and certain prospect of *positive* success. You may procure enough of this article, to supply the melancholy defect, from some neighbouring *brother butcher* at a very moderate expence, at the time of slaughtering ; either that of *calves* or *sheep* will answer the purpose, though the former, as being of a more *homogeneous quality*, is rather to be made preference of. This may be introduced into the *defective interstices*, which from the power of sympathy and transfusion, will be readily assimilated into one compact *formidable mass*, so that afterwards there will necessarily follow a most remarkable specimen of acumen and wit, such as will astonish the members of St. ——, a situation indeed, where it is often required, but where it has lately been much in request, without a trait of either being discovered.

In assuming that fascinating, delicate, non-descript character vulgarly ycleped a *man midwife*, an employment highly honourable and desirable on many accounts not necessary here to enumerate, a surgeon may hereby commonly contrive to scrape together a few *cheese parings* and candle ends, and in many respects *fill his pockets* with tolerable pickings, by the most laudable, pleasing, and accommodating means, a very few of which I shall briefly submit to your consideration.

One of the most prominent advantages attending this *superlatively delightful, amusing, and delicate* employment, to which no doubt you will readily assent, is that of being admitted so frequently and familiarly *with the persons of the ladies*, a high treat and peculiar gratification to a man of sentimental delicacy, united with all the *melting sensibilities* of tenderness and humanity. In the practice of this most *charming* branch of your profession, you are not to forget that a sort of *Janus, or two faces under one hood*; will here, as in other similar situations be a most indispensable pre-requisite. Whatever *the bent* of your *real* disposition may be, however tyrannical and overbearing, nay even though a *very devil* in your deportment to your *dependents*, or those over whom you can without control exercise your *authority* without fear of rebuke or contradiction, you must endeavour by every means in your power to assume the *external* appearance, and acquire the general character among *your*

patients, of being the most tender, delicate, mild, patient, humane feeling man in the world ; and although a feigned gravity, with a phiz seldom or ever to be charged with the serious imputation of a smile being discovered on it, yet at the same time, on proper occasions sufficiently facetious and enlivened by little harmless sallies of wit, and entertaining bon mots, as to keep up the ladies' spirits under the progressively painful conflict she has to pass through, and ensure the admiration, respect, and good will of her female relatives and attendants.

It very seldom happens, I believe, that the visitors and attendants in a lying-in-room, are so scarce and few, that you will be likely to experience much inconvenience for the absolute want of their *advice* and *assistance*. In *old women* you will discover a peculiar inclination to crowd the apartment, for the sake of *smelling* to the gin and brandy bottles, and otherwise refresh and regale themselves in the general *jollification*; and in *young women* an *irresistible penchant* to make one of the party, for the laudable purpose of improving their minds, to take a lesson on the practical *virtue of patience*, in a process they may soon have themselves to undergo; and lastly, for the more cogent reason of obtaining *improvement* by the peculiar *chaste, delicate, and edifying conversation*, which at such seasons is found so remarkably *prevalent and enlivening*.

As you readily I conceive see the necessity of being "*all things to all men*," or more properly

in the present instance *to all women*, the most effectual method you can resort to for the purpose of rendering yourself truly *amiable*, and perfectly *agreeable* to the former class of *ladies*, is by freely pushing about the glass, and convincing them both by precept, as well as example, that you have no objection to inhale the *enlivening* and *exhilarating odours* of the dram bottle; and the latter, by the timely and judicious application of *your wit*, in reciting your budget of *delicate* cheerful stories, *melting* inuendoes, and *pretty double entendres*, and uniting with the *whole posse* in the laugh and merriment, such *gentlemanlike conduct* will most probably occasion.

In paying due attention to these little admonitory hints, you will scarcely fail in (very soon, as well as effectually) feeling their *good effects*. You will hereby obtain considerable eclat and admiration, as being a most *pleasant, affable, jocose gentleman* among the gossips, and be certain in a very imminent degree, to extend your *good name*, and with it your practice among the train of *big-bellied women*.

You will not unfrequently find that even the patient herself, in the intervals of her pain, will not manifest an *unconquerable objection* to the *smell of the cork*, or even sometimes to venture on an occasional *hob nob*, which is so essentially necessary in keeping up her *spirits*, and assisting and supporting her strength, to go through the fatigue necessarily induced by the labour. Whilst

calling your attention to this circumstance, permit me to caution you against *an error* into which too many practitioners frequently fall, which is, that of opposing an indulgence in the *dram bottle* at these times. *My advice* however to you is, to act in *direct opposition* to this miserable maxim, and encourage your patient as *liberally with gin or brandy* as her desires are expressed, for by *this means* a job which would have terminated in the most favourable manner by mere *natural efforts*, will be converted into a case of difficulty and complexity, and most probably protracted to a *very profitable* and comfortable length of time, by the *friendly interposition* of an ardent or puerperal fever; and whilst on the one hand, you establish your reputation for being one of the most *condescending* and *attentive men in the world*, and on all occasions desirous to promote "*the flow of reason and the feast of soul*," no mean recommendation among *some ladies* of a certain class, you on the other hand do *yourself* some little service in another way: you *fill your pockets* with the fruits of your *honest industry* so long, till *death* more officious than *yourself*, busily interferes, and deprives you of that source, from which under prudent management, might have been reaped an honourable and inexhaustible fund of wealth. In short I have known it frequently one of the most *beneficial* and *lucrative* things in the world, to keep a patient in a *constant and continued state of intoxication* during the whole *course* of her labour.

It will be almost impossible for me to lay before you, or appreciate in a proper manner, the advantages inseparably connected with keeping up a continual round of conversation in a lying-in-room, particularly if it be duly and properly seasoned with a few sallies of *low wit*, *sprightly repartee*, and *vulgar obscenity*. In this instance you produce a mutual and reciprocal *good effect*; you in the first place keep the patient always cheerful, almost causing her to *forget her pains*; and in the next, as this species of lively and improving conversation will commonly be highly relished by *all parties*, both old as well as young, you will assuredly be applauded for the *brilliant point* of your humour and wit, and admired for your facetious pleasantry, and what is even of more consequence among the rank of *blackguards*, secure the estimation of your being thought a very **FINE MAN.**

I may here also just remark, it is at such seasons of revelry and jollity as these, that from a variety of circumstances you are enabled to form a tolerable accurate estimate of the *ladies weak propensities*, so as to assist you in selecting such of them as seem to favour *your views*, for the occasional purpose of amusing yourself with a little *harmless intrigue*. In the course of such *voluptuous reveries*, such *animating conversation*, you will find no difficulty in fixing on a proper object, for the purpose of seducing from the *vulgar and hacknied* path of virtue and decorum, and in this way *between the acts* of your employ-

ment, now and then accommodate yourself with a little *rational and innocent entertainment.*

I have had already occasion to point out to you of how great a degree of importance it is, that a surgeon should be particularly well grounded and experienced in the peculiar sense of *feeling*, or the art of discrimination by the *touch*. In no branch of surgery will the necessity of it more forcibly apply, than in that of the practice of midwifery, in which every act and determination is entirely regulated by this *single circumstance*, which is only to be acquired with a characteristic nicety, by long and continued practice. In the application of this *singular art*, which has usually been distinguished by the significant term of *trying a pain*, and in the course and progress of a labour, you will for many reasons have very frequent occasion to resort to, it becomes absolutely necessary for me here to suggest a *trifling caution*, which is, that you fall not into the inadvertent mistake, of exercising your skill in *this respect* on any person *except the patient*, which, as you may not be too much incumbered with *light* in the *room*, as well as in your *intellect*, may really happen to the most wary and guarded man in the world. I have been informed of several instances where practitioners have fallen into very unfortunate and inconsistent situations on this head, for want of due discernment and discrimination, and *have absolutely examined or touched every woman in the room, both young and old*, before they have

discovered their error, to the no small confusion and mortification on their own part, as well as the disappointment of the gossips.

When a surgeon, from the peculiarity of his professional avocations, exposes his character and reputation to the least hazard of impeachment, it follows, as a necessary consequence, that such exposition entitles him to an expectation of the most *liberal* and *handsome* remuneration, as no *gentleman* with a most delicate susceptibility of feeling, would willingly barter either his conscience or his fame, unaccompanied with a certain prospect of being *liberally paid for it*. Having premised these preliminary remarks, you will observe, that you may not unfrequently be applied to (*sub rosa*) for the purpose of removing some lasting monument of *female* fallibility and disgrace, by the which, either the peace and domestic harmony of families may be interrupted, or the *character* of female *virtue, continence*, and *chastity* exposed to the danger of being irrecoverably forfeited. In this unpleasant situation you may occasionally meet with the father or mother of a family, or a daughter hitherto unsuspected for the smallest deviation from the rules of propriety and virtuous integrity. It will at all times, therefore, be an object of the *philanthropist*, (and to such I trust I am addressing myself,) to use every effort in his power that the object of suspicion and disgrace, if desired, be *speedily removed*. If therefore, as you ardently wish to prevent such unpleasant conse-

quences) any *accident* should happen in the course of a labour, by which the life of a *child only* should be placed in a considerable degree of danger, without your interference, it would surely on your part be a most unwarrantable share of *officiousness*, in attempting to frustrate and counteract the *intentions of nature*, by endeavouring to *preserve it*; and therefore no practitioner, under a proper sense and impression of his *religious duties*, would arrogantly labour to invert the order and designs of *providence*, which under all circumstances he should feel a conviction, certainly guides and overrules every thing for the best, who in conformity with the maxim of "*whatever is, is right*," submits with resignation to that will, who alike "*sees a hero perish, or a sparrow fall.*" In addition to this moral appeal, you have stronger motives for attending to this advice, as certainly no *industrious man* possessed of common understanding, would be so much his own determined enemy, as to oppose the very means, by which he was destined to arrive at the summit of happiness and riches, by any *romantic notions* of strict honour and rectitude of conduct.

In directing your views to the various advantages accruing from the truly delicate and agreeable employment of an *accoucheur*, I know of none in itself more productive of emolument in every respect, than that of *accommodating ladies*, who may find it indispensably necessary from any little awkward occurrence to make a tem-

porary retirement from the bustling cares and prying inquisitiveness of a censorious calumniating world. In the laudable prosecution of this lucrative and humane branch of the *healing art*, you may find an additional stimulus to its adoption, in the recollection not only of *the fame*, but also of the *ample fortunes* which have been amassed in this *honourable manner*. In adverting to this part of the subject, you will no doubt call to mind the great *success* and *exemplary conduct* of several eminent practitioners, such as Mr. W —— of St. Paul's Church-yard, &c. who appropriated a large house entirely for the reception of those who had been a little unfortunate in their attachment, and thus become the victims of all *conquering love*.

In the judicious arrangement and discreet application of your talents, united with a proper regulation of an undertaking of this sort, you will almost to a direct certainty as a surgeon, accumulate an absolute *mine of wealth*, and in a very few years enable you as a merited reward for your persevering labour and industry, to sit down in comfort, and enjoy the *otium cum dignitate*. As for reasons best known to the parties concerned, to which indeed it may be irrelevant to my purpose to advert, *secresy* is in an imminent degree the peculiar characteristic of the medical practitioner, yet on principles of equity as well as honour, you cannot be expected by *reasonable beings*, to keep such things inviolably and sacredly locked up within your own

breast, without *very cogent reasons* being adduced for so doing, and none *more satisfactorily so*, than that you be rewarded as amply and liberally as the nature of the case, and the ability of the parties will reasonably admit, as well as being commensurate with the brilliancy of your talents, and proportioned to that undeviating system of *rectitude and propriety* which has always so eminently characterized your *general conduct*.

To a mind constituted as I trust yours is, infinitely superior to all doubt, dissimulation or suspicion, as measuring the supposed quantum of integrity of others *by your own*, I consider it a very necessary part of my duty, simply to hint to you the precaution of guarding against the duplicity and selfishness of too great a bulk of those with whom you may have intercourse in business. As therefore such *superior accommodation* as yours, can by no means be supposed to be adapted to the circumstances of *the million*, but to such persons only who being desirous of availing themselves of your *paternal care and confidence*, have the good luck to possess *tolerably long and capacious purses*, and none beside; your fee for professional attendance in cases of this description, must of course be *liberally handsome*, to which an objection will seldom be made. In addition to this *well earned douceur*, you will have an opportunity of lightening the weight of their cash, a little farther, by a few *incidental extra charges* for board, nurses, and medicines, with a *variety of other necessaries* peculiar to such si-

tuations, by which you may be enabled to swell your account to a decent length, the faithful discharge of which you must get properly guaranteed by some person of responsibility, connected with the parties, previous to admission under your hospitable roof.

With a view of rendering your institution as complete as possible, it will be positively required that you not only pay every prudent attention to the lady, placed in your hands, but that you have an immediate and effectual method of providing for her offspring, and ultimately liberating her from all incumbrances of this sort. For this purpose, you must take especial care to select and provide proper nurses, who are conscientious in their conduct, remarkable for humanity and tenderness, and who on similar emergencies, have given you the most repeated and satisfactory proofs of their superior qualifications in sending infants speedily out of this wicked world, to enjoy the felicities of a better, by starving filthiness, supplying them with opiates, with every other species of prudent attention, or by a much more ready and prompt method on your part, which at present may not be necessary for me even to hint at, to the wise, *verbum sat.*

By this species of conduct in approved nurses, or in that much more effectual way, suggested to your own consideration, thousands I may say of unprotected, troublesome, intrusive children have been most effectually disposed of, and indeed much better so, than having to encounter the frowns

and difficulties of a world, not remarkable for its *purity* in the present sunk and degenerate age, and many an *amiable, chaste, and dotingly fond mother*, after being thus released from the monument of her disgrace and incumbrance, has returned again to grace the pure and immaculate circles of the *haut ton*, without even a suspicion of her *virgin cestus* having ever been discomposed or broken, by the prophane yet bewitching insinuations of some *faithless guy deceiver*, and as such has united herself in the sacred bonds of matrimony with an *irreproachable character*, till the happy husband by some *unlucky circumstance* discovers to his chagrin, that his *cara sposa* is not of that *uncontaminated quality*, which in the first instance he had been led to imagine.

It may not improbably nor unfrequently happen, from a series of pressing *circumstances*, that your patient may feel desirous of making a *more ample and permanent provision* for her *much beloved infant*; that is, from her *pure and disinterested mind*, she may imagine that the noxious and contaminated air of this polluted world is by far too impure for her offspring, and *on that account only* may feel solicitous that it should *never breathe it*. To persons of so *noble, magnanimous, and resigned a character*, it must be a solace under the trying event of an infant happening to be *STILL BORN*, which though one of the most afflicting circumstances which can rend the heart of a *fond parent*, yet carries along with it this *trifling advantage*; all future enqui-

ries are at once defeated, and the infant as well taken care of, as though it were placed out under one of your *humane* and *approved* nurses to be **MURDERED BY INCHES**, a practice I can assure you by no means unfrequent, or altogether unprofitable to the accoucheur when *judiciously* conducted.

As a spirit of gallantry and attention to the *fair* is always to be inculcated in the *stronger sex*, you will in every respect endeavour to accommodate yourself as much as possible to their wishes and desires. If therefore under the above recited disagreeable circumstances, *nature* is not altogether propitious to *her wishes*, by seconding her *laudable* exertions for the provision of her child, *you* must be of course a little *more prompt* with *your* assistance, under whose auspices she may be fortunate enough to attain the object of her *care* and *solicitude*. In either case, however, your attention to her future welfare, will of course entitle you to a very *liberal reward*, to which no *reasonable* person can make the least objection. But in the prosecution of this *necessary art*, considerable address and caution must be resorted to, that your eminent and useful talents be not *overrated* by that *intrusive arbiter* of human merit called the *LAW*, and consequently from too *high an elevation*, a *hempen neckcloth* might not have the most easy and pleasant feel *round your neck*; all hazard and doubt of which, with a moderate share of *foresight and care* may be easily removed.

Although the character of an *empiric*, must always be extremely repugnant to a *respectable* regular practitioner, yet in particular cases even *this* must not be objected to, unmindful of calumny, when the good and welfare of society are placed in the opposite scale. The *Salo Pills*, an effectual remedy for all *obstructions*, (or some similar medicine,) will find their way very generally among such females, who may unfortunately stand in need of their effects, on the solid basis of their own rare and singular merit; and even if you only dispose of a few thousand boxes annually, at one pound two shillings per box, which is really not half their *intrinsic worth*, it may not be an object altogether unworthy of your notice. I do not suppose you capable of administering them for the avowed purpose of procuring *abortion by design*; but if at any time such an event were to follow from your advice, you will of course be entitled to a much more liberal fee; and should both mother and infant fall a sacrifice to their *mild* and *benign* operation, there can surely be no blame attached to you or your pills, which in *dropsical* as well as all other chronic cases, have relieved and cured so many thousand ladies of the first rank and fashion, who are on any emergency prepared and willing to attest the same by the most convincing and unequivocal testimony.

The craniology of Dr. Gall, although perhaps at present not arrived at that zenith of perfection and maturity to which it may hereafter be ex-

pected, is a science which will afford a fine scope for the exercise and elucidation of your very *superior genius*, and on every account, well merits your greatest study and diligence, to become a *proficient* in it. So incalculable are the advantages resulting from this system, both *public* as well as *private*, that to endeavour to enumerate them all, would be not only a fruitless but useless task. In the proper study and application of this *important art*, you will in proportion as it approximates to perfection, be in possession of considerable advantages, in the promulgation of it. As surgeons and physicians become duly acquainted with this *exquisite science*, not only will they be more conversant with diseases of *the head*, and be enabled to perform operations on it more expertly and efficiently, but they will also by due attention to the *lines, sutures, and protuberances*, and consulting and examining them in a *proper manner*, be qualified for selecting the good from the bad, the immoral and profane, from the wise and virtuous, till ultimately *vice* shall be driven abashed from her *present high eminence*, prisons become useless, and the offices of judges *absolute sinecures*.

Again I may observe farther, that as this science advances in its progress, it will have the decided good effect in producing the most *pure* and exemplary *philanthropists* and *patriots*: for from this unerring source, very considerable information may be obtained in selecting and appointing with judgment, proper and efficient per-

sons to fill, with manifest advantage, the various offices and departments *of the state*. With equal certainty as the mariner depends on the varying action of the *compass*, will you by the help of this science, (and *what Briton* but must ardently pray for its *general adoption*?) be almost as sure and infallible to steer clear from chusing an *interested designing minister, a debauched bishop, or a venal stupid commander*, with other things of equal importance to the general welfare of a country.

In a land of freedom like *our own*, remarkable for the *wisdom* of its rulers, and their *rigid economy* in the management of the public expenditure, this happy system may not probably be found so *extensively useful*, as for example on *the continent*, where slavery, profligacy and degradation are the general and established *product of the soil*, because corrupt influence, an insatiable grasping at the *loaves and fishes*, as places and pensions *in possession*, and two or three generations deep *in reversion*; an *immoral licentious priest*, or a thirst for *self-interest*, are *with us* absolute *non-entities*; but in those countries where the minister by intrigue and cabal frequently *secures to himself*, his *family* and his *creatures*, three or four lucrative offices *in possession*, and as many *in reversion*; where the people are groaning under an unprecedented weight and pressure *of taxation*, to the impoverishment of their families, and the total obliteration of almost every *domestic comfort*, and where matters of a *religious* as well as of a *civil*

kind are openly brought to market, and with even *seats in the senate* bartered and sold to the highest bidder; where the highest and best situations in *the church*, the *army* and elsewhere, are frequently to be obtained through the avowed *immediate influence* of the most profligate and abandoned *prostitutes*; and where thousands are annually and secretly lavished on courtly slaves, and obsequious pliant sycophants; who riot in gluttony and debauchery, wrung from the miseries, sufferings and distresses of an *oppressed people*; then indeed the *immediate cultivation* of *this noble science* becomes of increased value and inestimable worth; for on its pure principles it is as easy for *a country or an individual* to select an honest, virtuous man, or *set of men*, from their opposites, as it is to distinguish between open *virtue* and palpable *vice*; and happy, doubly happy would it be for *any country* so sunk and shamefully debased, if the *skulls* of those entrusted with power and high stations, were well and scrupulously examined previous to their admission: then most probably *that country* would revert to its pristine state of moral and political purity, “*when the nobles were truly noble, and the people truly free.*”

The last effort of your industry to enhance your honorable advancement, to which I shall point your attention, is that of obtaining the *genteel* and *profitable* appointment of surgeon general to the society for the improvement of the art and science of—*pugilism*.—As however *blackguardism*

and *pugilism* may be considered synonymous terms, and as these are so sedulously propagated and promoted by *brutes*, disguised under the garb of *noblemen*, you may by a little well applied finesse, make this a tolerably lucrative concern.— You will doubtless recollect the old adage that “birds of a feather flock together;” therefore you may very reasonably promise yourself a decently extended practice, among the *noble* and *scientific* *bruisers*, who are always found *foremost* and solicitous to give their *sanction* and *encouragement* to every species of *useful science* and *polite accomplishment*; of which no doubt *mangling* and *maiming* each other in *cold blood* must be considered the *chief*, particularly when it is observed and remembered what a train of *savages*, in the shape of *men*, and *blackguards*, under the mask of *right honorable* and *noble gentlemen*, are so exquisitely amused and edified thereby.

The principal and most laborious part of your duty will consist, in attending the battles between the *champions* C—b, M—x, G—y, R—d, B—r, and other *gentlemen* of equal notoriety and high breeding; for this extra trouble of mending *broken jaws* and fractured limbs, you will receive an additional *douceur*, beside your additional stipend; add to which you will enjoy the high privilege of tacking another *title* to the fag end of your name (viz.) *surgeon in ordinary to the society of blackguards*. The only inconvenience you will be obliged to encounter, will be the *disgrace* of being occasionally ushered

to the seat of combat, cheek by jowl in the barouche of some *pugilistic peer* or *right honorable baronet*; but as the *honor* and *emolument* of the appointment, are in themselves such great temptations to lay aside the scruples, and be content to be considered *as great a beast* as the best *pro tempore*, it will certainly be a decided mark of *strong sense*, that under *such impressions* you will not feel an invincible repugnance to perform.

Notwithstanding the *allurements* thrown in your way by such *genteel* and *lucrative* employments as these, let me give you a *friendly caution*, which is, that by every means in your power you endeavour to suppress and discountenance that *fashionable* but *horrid* custom now so prevalent in the circles of ton called duelling; as being repugnant and at variance with every thing consonant with the notions and sensations of a *gentleman*. In *pugilism* you may have to repair the bruises and fractures inflicted on *gentlemen professors*; but as you may not as yet have discovered the method of repairing the *heart* or *lungs* when perforated by a *brace of slugs* or the small sword; and as *these* are not the usual weapons of *noble* and *polite bloods*, but of drunken and infuriated brutes, you will no doubt as a *man*, a *gentleman*, and a *christian*, exert every effort in your power to prevent so *vulgar* and *ungenteel* a practice. "He that fights and runs away, may live to fight another day," says the old proverb; but in the latter case, this may not be exactly realized, unless, as is the frequent custom of *gentlemen*

cowards, they fight *without ball*, or at the place of meeting by the *kind interference* of the seconds, they come to an accommodation *by an apology*.

In such *bloodless duels* as these, you may be engaged with some profitable advantage; as by becoming notorious among the *gentlemen of ton*, you may this way among their drunken squabbles, come in for a frequent job, and at the same time spread your fame abroad for a man of *great spirit*, with a high and unimpeachable sense of strict *honor* and *rectitude*. This however may not be the case, in the event of *murder* being committed between the combatants; for in that case, both yourself as well as the seconds are liable to a prosecution for *felony* as *aiders* and *abettors*; and in order to keep your neck out of a halter, you may be compelled *to go on your travels* through a continental tour, to the disappointment of *your friends*, and the utter annihilation of all your *bright prospects*. Beside, the *honor* and *respectability* of the one are by no means to be put in competition with the other; therefore on *this principle* merely, you would assuredly prefer attending a *brace of blackguards* at a boxing match, and be caressed by the *noble* and the *great*, to the low, vulgar, and ungentlemanly practice of being the abettor of a *murtherer*, under the seducing epithet of *an affair of honor*. To conclude. The surgeon, like the physician, should always labour to keep up a good understanding with his brethren in each branch of the profession, as to their recommendation

he will occasionally be indebted for a snug job. The physician even on the greatest emergency cannot *open a vein* to save a patient's life ; and as to the apothecary, phlebotomy, and tooth-drawing form the summit of his *surgical skill*. If therefore any thing of more consequence than this occurs to his patient, the *surgeon* must be summoned, when you in return for the preference, will not be niggardly parsimonious of prescribing lotions, potions, embrocations, fomentations, with all the *et ceteras*, for the advantage of your friend the apothecary, dictated by the *purest* sentiments of *gratitude*.

Like the physician too, it will be expedient that you should have your weekly meetings, or *conversations* ; for admission to which you may issue your cards of introduction, or invitation *ad libitum*. Nor will even the expence of an occasional *dinner* conducted on economical terms ; or a little tea and turn out once now and then, be *entirely thrown away*. It is the nature of mankind to have their views and inclinations biassed by a *bribe*—a *compensation*, I mean, which in general will mould them to your wished for purpose ; and how can this be more effectually applied to these gentlemen, than by presenting them with what to many of them may be a *great rarity*, namely, a good and plentiful dinner ? At these meetings you will have an opportunity of an interchange of ideas on medical subjects with your visitors, each of whom may have cases to relate for the improvement and

melioration of the theory and practice of medicine, which they will deliver *seriatim*; so that by a communion of *intellect* and collision of sentiments, the light of knowledge may be elicited in a very increased ratio, to the mutual edification of the whole.

With respect to the assistance obtained through the medium of *the press*, with the various modes of *puffing* yourself into celebrity, the maxims which have been pointed out for the use of the physician, will apply with equal propriety for the regulation of the surgeon's conduct, and therefore I take the liberty of referring you to that part of the work, where I hope and trust you will meet with that series of hints, at once both deemed *useful* and *improving*.

Of the Army Surgeon.

As the army presents a wide field for the exercise of your very *extraordinary talents*, and at the same time embraces in it that sort of gay and pleasant life which prompts many young men to engage in the service, a few general remarks or instructions on it may not be considered uninteresting or altogether unprofitable.

In offering yourself a candidate for a situation in the medical department of the army, your application is to be made personally to the gentlemen composing that *illuminated and august body*; for which purpose you are to present yourself

before their *honourable board*, and in the first instance freely and valiantly make a *voluntary tender* of your services, to go to any part of the world, where *your brilliant talents* may be esteemed most valuable, or *their honours* feel inclined to send you; which is the *sine qua non* of admission into the army. Having complied with this salutary requisition, to which few spirited *volunteers* would reasonably make any objection, you are then instructed in the necessary mode of obtaining your passports or credentials, or in other words you are referred to the different tribunals, to pass the fiery ordeal of examination; in order to prove yourself qualified for the *arduous undertaking*, by no means a trifling task to persons of not the strongest nerves, though its rigor is usually softened and mitigated by the very *mild, encouraging, and gentlemanly behaviour* of the examiners, a circumstance materially differing from that austerity and consequence usually observed in persons appointed to *high situations*, and who will exert every expedient to display the weight of their authority, and as *Jacks in office*, cause their dependants to be subservient to their beck and commands.

But although the appendages of a *red coat*, a huge military hat, a sword, &c. have certainly very great attractions for aspiring enterprizing young men, who nobly prefer such honourable employment to the *mean drudgery of a shop*, yet it should also be duly noticed, it becomes a matter of the first necessity, that the engagement

with *its consequences*, should be very maturely weighed, and properly considered, prior to a *positive acceptance* of a commission or warrant, as afterwards it will be too late to retract or repent your want of deliberation; for having proceeded so far as this, you are under an absolute and legal restraint to submit to unlimited controul, and may be compelled to proceed on actual service, however repugnant to your inclinations; or be liable to the pains and penalties, attached to the crime of *desertion*, as well as incurring on your character, that most odious and dishonourable imputation called cowardice, though perhaps in *your views*, that may even be preferable to the difficulties and dangers commonly attendant on a *military medical officer* on a *distant station*.

These preparatory circumstances being however duly considered, and deliberately concluded, and your determination firmly *fixed*, on applying to the army medical board, you will receive from them a letter of introduction to the wardens and officiating examining surgeons of the hall, who will carefully sift and prove your pretensions to the situation thus sought after. You will then be required to be strictly examined touching your knowledge of medicine, and the cure of diseases; to all of which you no doubt, from the ardour of your studies feel yourself most *fully and completely competent*.

In passing the examination for a *surgeon*, it will be by no means necessary to encumber or

overcharge your brains with too great a stock of anatomical experience, or indeed with the method of *performing operations dexterously*; it will be quite sufficient for *your purpose*, if you can learn by rote the names of a few of the principal bones, muscles, and blood-vessels, which combined with having a *friend at your elbow*, will commonly be crowned with success. In your further progress through the business, it will be much more to your own *advantage*, and more especially to the *service* you are engaged in, that you should pass under the auspices of some field officer of consequence, who may have made an *early* discovery of the pliability of your disposition, and selected you for *his own* regiment as a very accommodating young gentleman, than your being strongly recommended by other persons for the *supereminence* of your surgical and medical abilities, a circumstance in itself so very *trivial and unimportant*, as in actual service to be always considered a mere secondary consideration; for should a few soldiers lose their lives from your want of surgical skill, it will never be attributed to its right source, but as one of the evils unavoidably and inseparably connected with the calamities of war, and as you may be an *eleve* of some officer of distinction, and of *course* of ample penetration, medical or otherwise, it must surely inevitably follow on *that account* as an impossibility that any untoward accident should take place from your *mere ignorance*, or neglect, which must be truly inconsistent with

their superior faculty of discrimination and discernment, and therefore nothing *disgraceful* can be apprehended in such fortunate and happy circumstances.

With regard to the examination, through which you must pass as to your knowledge in *physic and pharmacy*, you will find little on *that head* to give you apprehension or uneasiness. The principal object you should have in view, for preparing yourself for this momentous task, is to acquire a critical acquaintance with the *nosology of Cullen*, the *physiognomy of Lavater*, the *zoology of Darwin*, and the *sexual system of Linnaeus*,* and to acquire a clear apprehension on

* These are most *invaluable authors*, for a medical student, in which he will be gravely instructed in a very learned but simple manner, to discover that *trees* are *animated*, have their *food*, their *enjoyments*, their *grief*, their *health*, their *sickness*, their *watching*, their *sleep*, their *emanations*, their *absorptions*, their *infancy*, their *growth*, their *puberty*, their *manhood*, and their *LOVE*. Dr. Darwin in his *Phytologia*, says, he was never more earnest in his life, than ascribing to vegetables the *sensations*, the *affections*, the *passions*, and even the *designs* of what we ordinary mortals believe animals alone to be capable of. It was one of his favourite opinions, that *plants* are truly *animals*, and in his *Temple of Nature*, that this world is nothing but a *slaughter house*. Most piteously indeed he whines for the *tender grass*, and the *embryon seed*, which *sanguinary lambs* and doves devour, witness the following stanzas :

“The lamb and dove on living nature feed,
Crop the young herb, and crush the embryon seed.”

And who with a feeling heart but must sympathize in such a system of *cropping and crushing*, alias *philosophy run stark mad*? Quack! Quack! Quack! In addition to advancing your professional studies, by works of this *sublime* nature, you must enjoy this

these subjects, that you may be ready in your responses, as to what *class* each particular disease is to be systematically referred, which in the present mode of education, is a most indispensable and *very useful* branch of science. As to your real knowledge in the *cure* of diseases, that is a circumstance of *very trifling* consideration, a mere matter of form; for if in the first instance you have become a clever and judicious *nosologist*, you must infallibly be justly and fully competent to the successful treatment of diseases: the *latter* is a just inference drawn from the *former*, and being never questioned, will pass current for sterling merit with the *army medical board*.

In adverting to this part of the subject, it may be attended with some profitable use, to lay before you a concise list of some of those authors, which you may consult with *most advantage*. I would therefore recommend to your attention a diligent perusal of *Cullen's works*, particularly his *First Lines of Physic*, and as before noticed his *System of Nosology*. These, however, must be explored with a much more than ordinary attention, because after all your study, if you can ultimately comprehend the author's bent and meaning, I really think it will be *more than he ever did himself*. This may be considered by

great advantage; you will be qualified for being on your guard, lest in eating a cabbage, you are prophaneley eating your *brother*; or in a repast of apples or plumbs, you are masticating an *old aunt or cousin*.

some persons as a *serious* obstacle : it is certainly some error in an author to write *unintelligibly* ; but you must bear in recollection "*patitur qui vincit*," for by patience and persevering assiduity every obstacle of this sort will be removed. "*Willan on Diseases of the Skin*," is a book which will impart a power of strength to an army or navy surgeon, as cutaneous diseases fall very frequently under his cognizance, added to which a most ample and judicious *classification* of those complaints will there be found ; a circumstance, as already hinted, of the *utmost* moment and importance to the medical student. *Morgagni* on the *Subject of Generation* opens a fine field of study and contemplation to the inquisitive mind, and renders this hitherto abstruse and complicated subject, in the most *clear* and *perspicuous* point of view, a matter of no mean consideration for a practitioner in the army, where the *reality* of his acquirements is likely to be strictly and frequently scrutinized by men of *learning* and *research*, such as most commonly a *regimental mess* is composed of.

Trotter's Medicina Nautica, and *Turnbull's Army and Naval Surgeon*, with some others of a similar description, have been recommended by some surgeons ; and indeed where simplicity, and a general acquaintance with those subjects are *practically* sought after, may be said to have *their use* ; but in minds soaring above such *little things*, into the very elements of science, those of the former class will ever retain a very *decided* pri-

ority of preference. The same species of objections is equally applicable to *Brown's Elementa Medicinae*, because he appears to be a speculative theorist, who pursued and studied nature in all her windings and circumlocutions, and after unremitting diligencereduced the very *nucleus* of the practice of medicine into so small a compass, that it might fairly be said to be almost capable of being *contained in a nutshell*. As, however, he was a contemporary with, and the avowed opposer of the renowned *alexipharmac champion* of the day, *Cullen*, and has not so occupied himself in that *most useful* branch of science, a nosological classification, as his antagonist, he will of course be consulted with much *less profit*; nevertheless as an auxiliary, from whom some *trifling* good may be gleaned, he at your leisure may afford you, if not instruction, some share of *amusement*, and therefore may be taken in hand, when the mind requires relaxation from your *graver studies*.

The last, but not least important publications which I would with all due submission, very briefly recommend to your notice, are *Colman's Broad Grins*, *Joe Miller*, and the *London Jester*. These will furnish you with an ample stock of bon mots, repartees, and *pleasing delicate anecdotes*; qualifications of no mean or ordinary consideration with a *gentleman* whose primary object is to blend the *utile* and *dulce*, that he may acquire the reputation of being a pleasing and agreeable companion, as well as a *scholar* of

profound skill and erudition. In these are contained the *jokes*, which are calculated at a regimental mess to set the table in a roar, and stamp your reputation among your comrades for a man of infinite wit and exhaustless humour, qualities very desirable and worthy your study, in order to have your company courted by your superiors; besides your profit is connected with the same, for by making bosom friends of the corps of officers, it is hard indeed, when they have been sacrificing rather too freely at the altar of *Venus and Bacchus*, but you feel a little of the benefits resulting therefrom, and by lightening their pockets, prevent them from falling again into a repetition of their flagrant irregularities. In the pursuit of this species of study, you will be certain of arriving at future excellence, and of acquiring the reputation of being a complete adept in the definition and cure of diseases, and save yourself much unnecessary trouble in incumbering your pericranium with clinical lectures, or bedside practice, for it may be laid down as a very general axiom in therapeutics, that it is of much greater importance to a patient labouring under any painful and dangerous complaint that you should be competent to class it under its proper head, than that you should be expert in speedily removing the pain, and eventually curing the disease.

There is frequently found in an inexperienced young man, unaccustomed to the bustle and self confidence of persons farther advanced in the

concerns of life, a very predominant natural degree of *timidity* and *modesty*, which will be the means of his feeling, under such circumstances, a considerable share of chagrin and embarrassment. A censorious haughty demeanor in his superiors towards him, will in most cases aggravate his confusion, and particularly if the assessors of *his merits* are rigid and severe. I have known many instances of this sort in different occupations, and have observed a young man destined for taking orders, as well as passing for a surgeon or physician, or for taking a degree at the university, completely foiled and set aside as defective in qualification, merely from a want of confidence in his own merits, or from the supercilious arrogance of those appointed to bring his abilities to the test of probation. This unfortunate want of confidence, which is found far from rare in young candidates for public situations, will very frequently by *illiberal Jacks in office*, be readily mistaken for a consciousness of intellectual deficiency, may incur the danger of a repulse, and so the future prospects of fame and emolument be irrecoverably blasted.

Notwithstanding I must profess myself by no means an advocate for any species of *impudence* or presuming *assurance*; yet I cannot omit to caution and warn you against falling into an *opposite extreme*, or for want of a *proper opinion* of your own abilities to feel cowed or dismayed by the impertinent grimaces and observations of those, who from the situation in which they

are placed, one might have been induced to expect something a little more allied to honour, if not to humanity. This hint should merit your more particular attention, if there happen at that period to be no *particular* demand for the services of army surgeons; especially if a *Walcheren*, or some other equally judicious and gallant expedition be not in agitation, to call for the assistance of a certain and increased number of medical officers, who are sometimes considered indispensably necessary accompaniments to the gallant and brave defenders of our country, and our allies. But although from the remarkable healthy state of that place, and the very few lives that were sacrificed in its bogs, together with the ample and liberal supply of medicines and necessaries which accompanied that wise and brilliant enterprize, the situations of medical officers were almost absolute sinecures; still an expedition may be determined on very suddenly, perhaps a secret one, as ours frequently are, *pro bono publico*, by a vigilant and energetic administration, where the climate may be of the most pestilential and fatal kind; then probably, as surgeons may not be so readily and speedily obtained, you may stand a good chance to escape that critical and rigid examination, that illiberality of behaviour, which might not have been expected from men professing at least the semblance of gentlemen.

As I always feel peculiar gratification in being the harbinger of good news, I am happy in having

it in my power to inform you, for *your* satisfaction and encouragement, that should you feel any of *this sort* of diffidence or bashfulness at offering yourself a candidate for army practice, you need harbour no fears or doubts on *this head*. The present S—— general is *particularly* remarkable for his urbanity and gentlemanly behaviour, on such occasions; and should he discover any symptoms of *chagrin* or *embarrassment* in a young man, his principal care and concern is to endeavour by the most encouraging and *affable* condescension to dissipate them *in toto*; nay I was lately apprized of an *astonishing* instance of his marked benevolence and *generosity*, where a young man was in absolute danger of losing his appointment, who could not conveniently raise a sufficient sum of money to pay *the fees* of initiation, when he absolutely advanced them for him out of his own private purse, which for a person so *indifferently* remunerated for his labour, was an extraordinary instance of philanthropy, especially as the young man had no ostensible mode of repaying it with interest till in possession of the *liberal* emoluments of his office, which no doubt would be scrupulously restored, accompanied with a sense of the highest gratification a man can feel on any occasion, namely *gratitude*.

The P—— general of the present day possesses an equally good and benevolent heart, always delicately *scrupulous and tenacious* in wounding the perturbed feelings of young candidates for his

favour. He is a man of the most consummate abilities, and ranks *universally high* in the opinion and estimation of the medical world; and though he may from the infirm state of *his health* prefer a visit to the depots or garrisons *at home*, to the more fatiguing and laborious service of *the continent*, to which his magnanimous *mind* would lead him, yet he is accredited a man of a *most gallant bearing, tried and acknowledged bravery*, and makes a point of always dealing with young officers in the true spirit of feeling, patriotism, and benevolence, by which means he has become so much and so deservedly loved and revered *by all ranks* in the profession, to whom no request was ever preferred, but if he could grant it was certain of being obtained, without *partiality, preference, or reward*.

Having then passed the ordeal of critical investigation as to your qualifications, and invested with your warrant or commission, surely no one can have any reasonable objection to *volunteer* for unlimited service, particularly if he should be so fortunate as to be sent to an army depot in some of the *West India Islands*, so eminently notorious in history for the *salubrity* of the air and climate. This desirable circumstance carries a double advantage with it, for should you be fortunate enough to survive *all* your fellow surgeons, 'tis odds when they are *killed off*, but you step forward in the line of promotion, or if you on the other hand should be *lucky* enough to be numbered with them, you in that case

escape the toils and inconveniences of a burning sun, the laborious duties of an unpleasant profession, and are thus very *amply* and *permanently* provided for, without farther trouble or interference of your patron.

Standing in this latter predicament, by which I mean the advantage of a *friend at court* to give you an occasional lift over the heads and shoulders of such who *never* had that privilege, and there being no *noble illegitimate*, or favorite *valet* to step over you, from more powerful influence and claims, *sub rosa*, you may proceed *gradatim* from hospital inmate, to full surgeon, which is nearly the summit of your elevation for several years. Here you will enter on a very different and new scene of action. You will have an assistant placed under you to do the principal and most irksome part of the duty, whilst you are taking ample recreation in the fields of *Venus* and *Bacchus*; and should you but possess ingenuity and forbearance enough as to contrive to get the *blind side* of the inspector and deputy inspector of hospitals, and to make your monthly returns *to his satisfaction*, your business is done, and then you become nearly *lord paramount* of the whole regiment, and particularly if you go on cordially with the commanding officer, whose favor and good will you may easily obtain, by *writing* his billet doux for him, or assisting him in some *secret intrigue*.

You will now be called on, and expected to make a monthly return of the sick under your

care, always remembering the *fewer* the number, the more gratified the inspector will be, with such observations, as in the diligent and *conscientious* discharge of your duty, you may have had an opportunity of making ; such as what particular disorder is most prevalent, your peculiar mode of treatment, whether you have studied a cheap method of prescribing, or any other communication connected with the general *good and welfare* of the army, keeping out of the account as secret as possible; how many poor fellows have been condemned to the grave by over bleeding, vomiting, purging, and making different *experiments* to prove the effects of violent or deleterious medicines.

It will be always a very desirable, if attainable object, to use every means in your power to go hand in hand with the inspector and his deputy on all occasions, coinciding and acquiescing in *every thing* he does, or every opinion he broaches, declaring black to be white if *he wishes it*. This will be absolutely necessary as a man of the world, if you wish to glide on with the stream, and pass your time in a tolerable degree of pleasantness. If these very *sapient gentlemen* should think proper to denominate a pleurisy a *typhus fever*, or *vice versa*, you must make the *same declaration*. If a little sacrifice to Bacchus should not be *altogether disagreeable*, or they should discover a small predilection for a goblet of the juice of the Tuscan grape, I would advise you not to be very *parsimonious*, but acquiesce with their

inclinations, even though your *pocket* should be a little exhausted by the same : it is I believe a much lesser evil of the two, than by any means to incur their displeasure, for these said gentlemen have it in their power, to give you a great deal of trouble, and if they find *you run rusty*, are sometimes very curious and impertinently officious, and may either wound your *delicacy* by reprimanding your negligence, or report you as inattentive or altogether *incompetent* to your station. So that you must either flatter their vices and admire their ignorance, or run the hazard of being cashiered or superseded, for no *justifiable* reason on your part, but from *their unprincipled caprice*, when a little *free bleeding* might have silenced all enquiries, and confirmed them in the list of your *best friends*, instead of your most decided and *inveterate enemies*.

There is a maxim peculiar to *army practice* which seems diametrically opposed to the *general practitioner*, that will be necessary you should bear constantly in your recollection, which is, that as in *the one* you drench your patient *as much as possible* to magnify your bill, so in *the other* you are to reverse the maxim in an opposite ratio, and should seldom or never suffer a soldier to be incommoded with *any medicines at all*. This is a line of conduct always acceptable to your *superiors*, and will seldom excite the murmurs of the *soldier*, cause him to feel dissatisfied on *that head*. It is really a matter of astonishment what powerful efforts *nature* will make on her part, in

order to attempt recovering the equilibrium in most diseases incident to the human body, if her operations are not clogged or impeded by the officious interposition of some meddling busy practitioner, a sort of doctrinal hint equally coercive with the army surgeon, as the resorting to *bleeding and warm water* by Dr. Sangrado in all disorders.—Whenever though you find it *really* necessary to administer medicine, which if *properly* managed is a rare occurrence, let it ever be your principal object to make yourself thoroughly conversant with the art of *substitution*, by which I mean the application of those medicines, which are *most reasonable*, instead of such as are *scarce and expensive*; or never to prescribe any foreign production if possible, to give encouragement to the commerce and traffic of the enemy, when our own indigenous plants, herbs and roots, are now discovered to possess such *transcendent virtues*.

Keeping this doctrine continually in view, and adhering to this salutary caution, I would first suggest the propriety and eminent virtues of the *oak bark*, instead of wasting the Peruvian bark, which will cost *ten times* the price, with no other *virtues* than will be discovered in the former. Instead of opium, the *lupulus humulus*, or hop, as prepared by *Mr. Freake* will be found fully adequate to every purpose for an *anodyne or narcotic*; a little resin, or spirits of turpentine will be found to answer every intention of the *balsam copaiba*; whilst for *blistering*, the common *mustard* *sina-*

pism, will be a complete succedaneum for the cantharides or Spanish flies , he one answering every purpose and intention of the other; or where a more *acrid* application as a *stimulant* is desired, the *actual or potential cautery* will evidently appear *admirably* adapted to such purposes.

It would be unnecessary for me to particularize a longer list of *substitutes* of reasonable for expensive medicines, which would extend these observations much farther than my limits would properly allow me; suffice it here to observe, that in the practice of this salutary art much must be left to the exercise of your own judgment and discretion, to become an adept in which, will be a great desideratum with an army surgeon, and will invariably recommend him to the notice of his commanding officer, as well as establish his skill and reputation with those who are placed over him as his superior officers, to whom, as before observed, he is accountable for *every iota* of his conduct.

I cannot conclude these few cursory remarks without briefly adverting to another branch of this subject, which may not be immediately apparent to your understanding, namely, that you lay it down as a general rule, seldom indeed admitting any exceptions, that *tinctures* and *syrups* are not to form a part of your extemporeaneous prescriptions ; not only on account of the expense, but that the one has a tendency to give soldiers an itch for ardent spirits, and the

other to cloy and nauseate *their stomachs*. Instead of such inescicacious medicines, have always ready prepared a cask, or large jar of solution of *tartar emetic*, and another of *cathartic salt*: these will answer every possible use you can desire, as *emetic*, *cathartic*, *alexipharmic*, *sudorific*, and *relaxant*, possess also the advantage of being always ready at hand, and will no doubt answer equally well in *most diseases* incident to soldiers. As these medicines are calculated to keep the body *cool* and *temperate*, when spirits would be found to have a very opposite and injurious effect, you will see the propriety as well as absolute necessity of suspending their use as much as possible. In addition to these advantages you may benefit *yourself* also by this wholesome practice, for the *spirit and sugar* may occasionally be converted into a good *bowl of punch*, with the addition of a little chrystallized acid of lemon, to regale *yourself* and *fellow surgeons*, which is surely much more laudably and beneficially employed, than in wasting and expending it *on the men*, not only tending to corrupt their *morals*, and destroy all habit of soberness and temperance, but in fine highly destructive to their general health, as well as the subversion of good discipline.

As soldiers are not *positively* exempt *at all times* from sickness, and at that period may be disposed to give you *some trouble*; and as your assistant may probably be an *ignoramus* or a *coxcomb*, neither of which is a *rara avis* in the army, you may select an intelligent active fellow from

the ranks to assist you, who in common will be very serviceable and proud of the office. With a moderate degree of trouble and perseverance, you may soon bring such a man to be extremely useful, and not being incumbered with the fantastic notions of a *petite maitre*, commonly called a *fine gentleman*, you may in a little time discover him much more willing, more intelligent and quick of apprehension than *your regular assistant*.--- You may instruct this man after a little initiation in a few common-place trifling operations, such as opening a vein, or drawing teeth, commonly termed *cracking a nut*: in the first you should teach him to *cut and hack* with boldness all before him till he find a vein. If he should separate an artery, or puncture a tendon, no one will discover the *real* cause of the patient's death, and even if detected, there is always a *salvo* at hand; for it is, *you well know*, an accident which happens continually to the most skilful and accomplished surgeon, and therefore cannot possibly admit of any grounds for grumbling.

With respect to the operation of *cracking nuts*, be careful to impress on his mind the positive necessity of putting out *all his strength* on such an occasion: this on all accounts must be extremely judicious practice, as either the tooth *must* come out root and branch, or the jaw itself *is fractured*: in the first case, the patient is radically *wed* of his malady, and in the second as he will not be able to *masticate* his food for several weeks, there will be a less consumption of bread

in the regiment, which if an article that runs short in allowance, will have a very useful effect, by affording a greater proportion to those who can *bite it*, and are lucky enough to get it to *bite at all*.

Above all things let your ingenuity be exerted to give him ample instructions, and make him clever and handy in managing and pickling the *lacerated backs* of the refractory and insubordinate privates; make him acquainted with the most expert and *proper* treatment of them, that they may not be *too speedily* cured, lest from too great a familiarity and usage, the men become *indifferent* to the punishment, and this salutary and wholesome discipline be rendered *entirely* abortive and inefficacious in your regiment. In addition to this a few private lessons on the art of *gagging*, may not be thrown away on him, particularly as it is a species of punishment, which has of late been found of *peculiar efficacy* in preserving discipline and good order *in the navy*.

Should it ever unfortunately happen that your *junior* assistant should fall into any *trifling error*, such as administering a little *arsenic* for cream of tartar, or corrosive sublimate for any of the neutral salts, so that *death ensue*, why as it can only be known to himself and his employer, there can be no danger of its going any farther, nor any risk incurred of *future investigation*. The agonies and convulsions usually attendant on an *insignificant* accident of this kind, may certainly not be of the most *pleasing sensation* to the unhappy

patient; but this can easily be *converted* into an inflammation of the bowels, or violent spasms, and when there is a termination of the business, and the poor wretch is released from his sufferings, all enquiries of course must cease, for you no doubt must reasonably suppose that *dead men* tell no tales. As in conformity to established rules you will seldom make use of tinctures, there will be little danger of laudanum, or tincture of opium being substituted for tincture of rhubarb; should however such an untoward event happen to take place, the *same* line of conduct will equally apply as in the *former* case.

When you are placed in so unfortunate a situation as to have a patient become burdensome on you by keeping *too long* on the sick list, by which your character and conduct, as before hinted, will be likely to be scrutinized and canvassed by the *inspector* at your monthly report, after having exercised him with a tolerable share of discipline, in order, though unsuccessfully, to get him out of your hands; as such patient has put you to some considerable trouble and expense, as well as puzzled and defeated your judgment; the most speedy and effectual method of getting rid of so gross an incumbrance, and bringing the matter to issue, will be to persuade the colonel, or commanding officer, to discharge him as *incurable*, which is on *such* a representation seldom objected to. Nothing, I must again repeat, will prove more discreditable to yourself, or obnoxious to your superiors, than that a man on *any occasion*, or under any pretence should remain too

long reported as sick; beside by this prompt method of *a discharge*, you save any additional expence of medicines, and obviate all danger of injuring your health by over fatigue, or too close application to business.

If perchance you should be called on to attend a case of which you find yourself *totally ignorant*, (probably not an unfrequent occurrence,) but which *must* occasionally happen to the most skilful and experienced practitioner, be careful to take especial caution that you do not betray your deficiency by any hasty or inconclusive measures of your own adopting. When this is the *real* state of the case, and you feel satisfied of your incompetency, in order that you may act with *certainty* as well as *safety*, you had better come to a decision to act with prompt alacrity. You may then proceed to *breathe a vein*, without farther delay, to administer next an *active emetic*, that followed by a *brisk cathartic*, and lastly apply a *large blister* or *sinapism* between the shoulders. All this may be done in the *outset* of the disorder, and the odds must be very much against you indeed, if out of *all* this list of remedies, you should not strike the right nail on the head, or that *one* of them may not be *exactly adapted* to your patient's case, even if admitting that *all* the other should be wrong, and to give eclat to your proceedings, your patient must be the most unreasonable man existing if even a murmur should escape him, seeing that he can have no justifiable pretence to accuse you of tardiness or tempo-

rizing, in administering and affording him the required relief. If the discipline thus inflicted should prove rather too severe for his stamina, if what you have gained by *vomiting* and *purgings*, is overthrown by too much *bleeding*, the disease was only to blame; nothing can possibly be hinted to attach any blame or harshness in your proceedings, and as the old adage says, *death you know frequently proves the doctor an ass.*

In performing the operation of *phlebotomy*, much will and ought to depend on the person on whom you perform it, as it respects the pain or facility attending it. It will be necessary therefore, as well as *prudent* always to carry in your case a *blunt lancet*, and a *sharp* one, the former for the use of the *men*, and the latter for that of the *officers*; for surely it would be too great a luxury for a *private*, that he should be bled with a fine *cutting lancet*; beside, if the operation be found to be performed with so little pain, as it *certainly* may, you might probably be called on to perform it unnecessarily, or too frequently, which not only exposes you to the inconvenience of soiling your hands, as well as the hazard of bespattering your fine clothes, but must also incur the *heavy* expence of grinding *half a dozen lancets* extraordinary in the course of the year: in times *hard* as the present are, economy should even in *minute* circumstances be studiously practised; and as the officers and men are constituted and formed of very *different*

and opposite materials, this will be making a very necessary and proper *distinction* between them.

There is a very absurd and unreasonable system which is practised in some regiments, which among other things both there and elsewhere calls loudly and imperiously for some kind of reform. The subject to which I here specifically allude, is that of the surgeon being compelled to cure the men of the venereal disease *gratis, vi et armis*. This is unquestionably a great piece of imposition on a body of people so indifferently rewarded as army surgeons, particularly as your *precious* time is commonly so much more laudably and usefully employed. When however, the *tyrannical custom* lays you under so unreasonable an obligation, you should make it an invariable rule to pay them *very little* regard or attention; and to manifest that you are ever a decided foe to debauchery or immorality of any sort *among privates*, be particular to treat these poor wretches with all the roughness and severity possible; you may expatriate with great propriety on the *prophaneness* of such conduct, in which your *chaplain* will second you, if (*as parsons usually are*) he is a man of *strict and correct* life and conversation: indeed tenderness and humanity in your deportment under *such* circumstances, would only prove a sanction and encouragement to *vice*.

If then these unfortunate men are released from this nauseous *malady* too speedily, and you endeavour to mitigate their sufferings as much

as you are able, the consequence is that they only soon forget what *they ought to remember*, whereas some lasting memento will make them more cautious in future, and prevent their incroaching on your *known mildness and good nature*. The case is certainly very materially *altered*, when a portion of their pay, which is now so *liberal* as to admit of their rioting in every refinement of *luxury*, is retained to reimburse *you* for curing them. As when this is really the case you receive your payments *weekly*, there is no necessity for being in a *violent hurry* to get them well, for the most cogent and ostensible reasons: first, because *your profit*, which, when your patients are numerous, affords *tolerable pickings*, would totally cease; and secondly, should you cure them ever so speedily, there can be no doubt, but in a very little time they will contract the disease afresh, and thus your medicines and advice be literally thrown away, or perhaps, which is still much worse, *your professional ability* doubted or called in question. Add to all this, that as the *ladies* attached to a camp or garrison, are not the most exact or select on whom they bestow their charms and favours, being commonly a sort of common stock for the *general use* of men and officers, it is great odds but they may circulate the disease pretty *freely and generally* among the officers, by which means again you of course infallibly extend your practice and with it your emoluments, a circumstance of no trifling or ordinary consideration.

A surgeon who aims at arriving at eminence in his profession, is under all circumstances, and in all situations expected to possess a firmness of mind, a vigour of intellect, and a superiority above all symptoms of *fear* or pusillanimity. In the army and navy this is a most commendable quality, where promptness, vigorous action and determination are so imperiously demanded. To a man of such a disposition, a proper degree of discipline, and strict subordination, will be ever an object of primary consideration; and which he will endeavour to promote by every means and effort within the compass of his ability. There are, however, some army surgeons who are notoriously incumbered with a very *false degree* of delicate sensibility, against which I would enter a decided protest, and which on your part will demand every caution and attention *carefully to avoid*, as the principal source from which your future prospects are capable of being completely and decidedly marred, and from which, no more effectual method can be adopted to incur the *displeasure* and *resentment* of your commanding officer, and others your superiors.

Taking it for granted that prosperity and estimation at the present, with the prospect of the *otium cum dignitate* in the future, are considerations of the very highest importance to a young man anxious to acquire popularity and *independance*, the subject to which I allude, and which as a *scarecrow* I would hold up to your view, as a single beacon, to warn you of the impending

danger of such a failing, is that reluctance and fellow feeling which some medical officers are troubled with, when called on to attend that most important and *necessary* part of their duty, the exercising the unruly and depraved members of the regiment, with a little *wholesome, gentle flagellation* at the halberts or triangles, with that salutary harmless instrument, commonly called a *cat o' nine tails*.

It is worthy of remark, that you are *here* invested with a more than ordinary share of *power and authority*, for in all respects but *this*, your colonel is commanding officer, and in *him* centers all power over the men; but during the period of inflicting on a man *corporal punishment*, you to all intents and purposes fill his place and supersede *his* judicial authority and influence, for in your hands may be said, as far as respects the individual, are committed *the issues of life and death*, as a *single lash* dare not be added to the number already received, after *you* have entered your protest against his capacity of bearing a farther degree of *torture*.

Now a surgeon of a wavering and unsteady resolution, who has that most fatal and irrecoverable failing called a *weakness of nerves*, by some *vulgarily termed* humanity and feeling, will frequently perceive his very *inmost soul* harrowed up, whilst his duty sternly commands him to be the unwilling, reluctant arbitrator between the unhappy *sufferer* and *death*. He will on the one hand be assaulted by the tears, the importunities

of *wives and children*, soliciting at his hands that most noble and godlike attribute *mercy*, whilst his ears will be assailed with the piercing and agonizing *cries* and exclamations of a fellow creature, writhing and shrinking under the thong, enduring (*as he foolishly imagines*) more exquisite torture for the amendment of *his body*, than was ever devised and inflicted by the most *holy inquisition* on heretics, *for the salvation of their souls*; whilst on the other hand he must witness the mortification of hearing his colonel threatening him with the most exemplary disgrace, if from a false notion of lenity or feeling he suffer a man to be taken down, and *his torture suspended*, before he has received the *last lash* which human nature is capable of sustaining, without the positive total extinction of life.

A man who from constitutional or physical effects, or from what other cause arising, is *unfortunately* possessed of this nice sensibility, should always avoid if possible engaging in army or naval practice; for should he be indiscreet enough to become a member of either, his want of firmness and resolution, or what is usually denominated *though erroneously*, sympathy and humanity, will be always an insurmountable barrier and impediment to his advancement in his profession. As however I will hope that what has been briefly observed on this subject, will operate on *your mind* as an ample caution against such a *weakness*, and as your primary object is to thrive and push forward in your

laudable pursuits, you must of necessity rise superior to all such *petty* and *puerile impressions*, and never be so carried away by your feelings, as to permit for a moment, that *justice* should be superseded by the bugbear of *mercy*, or forget that in a *faithful* discharge of your trust, you are as a *true patriot* fulfilling your duty to your God, your king, and your *country*.

It is more than probable no delinquent was ever placed in such wretched and humiliating circumstances who had not by his transgressions merited the *full weight* of legal vengeance; and therefore acting as you no doubt always will, from a pure principle of *conscience and moral rectitude*, you will be expected faithfully to discharge your duty between offending depravity, and offended justice, to the *very utmost*; and from no ridiculous romantic ideas of sensibility or humanity, suffer a *miscreant* to escape a *single lash*, as long as he is able to bear it *ad infinitum*. You will frequently examine the state of his pulse during the infliction of punishment, as the only criterion of judging of the *real* state of the delinquent; and beware that you are not *imposed on*, by any species of fraud or artifice, of which you cannot be sufficiently on your guard.

It will be readily supposed *a priori*, that very different and opposite effects will be produced by the infliction of the *whip-cord* on different persons. You will frequently find men of a strong muscular and athletic form, who will stand a few *hundred lashes* without a moan; whilst on

the other hand, there are those of a more *delicate hide*, and effeminacy of make, who could not bear as many dozen, without incurring the danger of *sacrificing their lives*. Again, some stout lubberly fellows will rend the very place with their clamour and noise ; these in the *military slang* are denominated *nightingales* : others will take their quantum of punishment with manly fortitude, without even wincing, these are commonly deemed *sulky or hardened*. Now as I have before remarked, you must cautiously guard against imposition and deception, by which you will infer, that you are by no means to order a man down, as soon as he appears to throw his *head back*, drops his knees, *and faints* ; all this is frequently put on, for the most *base and sinister purposes*, and which you can only *accurately measure* by the positive strength of the pulse, on which, without the least regard or attention to *other circumstances*, you will place the most implicit confidence ; indeed, nothing would be more calculated to expose a surgeon's *weakness*, and render him liable to the *ridicule and sneers of his brother officers*, than that from a sentiment of *false delicacy*, or humane feeling he should be the means of reinitting a *single lash* of that punishment he is called on to see *properly inflicted*, at least till he feel convinced there was an absolute necessity for so doing, from the delinquent's *positive inability* to bear more at that time, but which is to be rigidly and inflexibly renewed as soon as the effects of the former laceration are

in some measure mitigated, and the danger of a *fatal mortification* removed. Some colonels or commanding officers of regiments, have been sometimes found so *tender-hearted*, as to feel great repugnance to a man's receiving his remaining quantum of punishment a *second*, or even a *third time*, who could not take the *whole* sentence of perhaps from five hundred to a thousand lashes *at once*: with this you cannot be supposed to have any other concern, than with other *humane* officers to deplore and lament that depravity and profligacy of morals which must always be the inevitable consequence of such a *relaxed state of discipline*.

You may probably feel an irresistible propensity to have your *risible muscles* slightly moved, when I assert that I have really personally known two or three *chicken-hearted toobies* who were weak and silly enough to quit very good situations in the medical department of the army, merely because they could not bear the idea of superintending this most *wholesome* and *necessary* part of their duty. To be sure, the *pencils* of those young *artists* the drummers, (who quaintly term this process, *painting a man's back*,) are not of the softest quality in the world, of which the sufferer by his *exclamations* takes pretty good care to convince them, though I have heard it hinted, that were it not for that unfeeling brute *the adjutant*, a customer of this sort may be accommodated according to *any price* he is able to pay for it, from the *stiffest whipcord* down to the

half twisted packthread, like Macheath and his *fetters*, which were of all prices, according to the sum paid. Or should he whilst in confinement have been *tolerably liberal* to these young artists in the distribution of a little *jackey*, or a few pots of porter, it has also been *whispered* that they know how to be *grateful* to their benefactor, especially if the drum-major is not too flippant with his rattan over *their own backs*, or hold up in *terrorem*, the threat of their own *delicateshoulders* being *gently rubbed over* with the adjutant's towel.

In all these cases, as before observed, *you* must be the sole arbiter, taking especial precaution not only that the instrument is *properly prepared*, but that it also be as *freely* and *properly applied* to the part affected *pro re nata*, and that from no understanding previously arranged between the parties, no collusion, or partiality, the least abatement be made either in the *quality* or *quantity* of the punishment; and lastly, that from no feminine weakness you ever manifest a disposition more inclined to *mercy* than *judgment*.

A vast deal of senseless clamour and outcry has been lately raised in our country, which has even penetrated the sacred doors of the senate, the town halls, and the forums, by a set of *factious demagogues*, calling themselves *reformists*, in which an attempt has been made to prove that *good discipline* is possible to be obtained and preserved, without having recourse to what they arrogantly and impudently style military *torture*,

and have even gone so far as to espouse its *total abolition*, to the danger of an entire subversion of all order and subordination throughout the army. It is a melancholy proof how little these wild theoretical speculatists know of military matters, when we find them talking of substituting imprisonment and disgrace for *flogging*; and as to those who have incurred the just displeasure of government, and have even raised the choler of so *mild, gentle, and humane a man* as our late A * * * G * * * *, whose very countenance as the index to his pure and immaculate mind, beams forth with every grace and virtue, true to its point, as the needle to the pole; these I say from their imprudent measures, and their romantic ideas of *feeling* are now suffering the just reward of their presumption and impertinence, though their punishment by *thinking* and *reflecting* persons must surely be considered very inadequate to the wickedness and depravity of their intentions, not only attempting to create a general discontent among the *soldiery*, but to subvert the wholesome and longestablished laws and discipline of a *brave army*. Besides, were such nonsensical dogmas to be ever attended to and adopted, the situations of surgeon, drummer, drum-major, and adjutant, would be rendered almost tantamount to *sinecures*; and who can say but that in this *meddling* inquisitive and *reforming* age, the office of army surgeon may not soon be entirely abolished, as an unnecessary expence to the state, and the management of the sick be

altogether entrusted to the care of the orderly man, I before recommended to the surgeon's attention? For as a drummer once very *coolly observed*, as he was lacerating a man's back pretty handsomely with his *pencils*, who accused him of striking unfairly, and made horrible lamentations and outries, "*there are some people whom it is impossible to please, who, do what one will to accommodate them, will always be grumbling.*"

Although there have recently taken place some rather *novel* as well as very *mild and humane* kinds of punishment, which may probably hereafter be adopted as *substitutes for flogging*, yet as they have originated principally in the navy, and as yet have not been introduced into *army practice*, I need not be very prolix in what I have to advance. The kinds of punishment to which I particularly allude are *gagging*, and putting offenders to *perish by famine* on desolate and uninhabited islands. With respect to the former of these, which must always originate with the officer sustaining the command, your duty as a surgeon is simply to observe that the gag be not *too large*, or if the crime to be punished should demand more than ordinary severity, and a *wedge of iron* should be deemed preferable to a *gag of wood*, you are never to have the man thus situated, left without a centinel placed over him, who may warn you against the danger of forfeiting the *man's life*, by continuing this *rare amusement* rather too long, as in the event of such an accident, although you may

not eventually be *tried for murder*, or *your own neck* be in any danger, you may probably be *cashiered*, and for your palpable neglect rendered incapable of *ever officiating again* in his Majesty's service.

As to the latter punishment of *perishing by famine*, or by being *mangled by beasts of prey*, you as a surgeon cannot be supposed to have much influence in the business, or that you will *accompany* the delinquent to *witness his misery*: the only object which need I think claim *your attention*, is, that he be placed in such a situation, that he may not *linger long in his torments*. For this purpose you will assuredly exercise *your humanity*, which you will always be glad to manifest so far as is consistent with *your duty*, by first ascertaining that on the island there are plenty of ferocious *wild beasts*, who will quickly devour him, or that it positively produces no manner of substance, convertible into *food for human sustenance*: so that by one or other of these prudent means the poor wretch may be speedily released from his miserable sufferings, and prevented from ever returning to his native land, to recount the tortures he has endured, and by making a *public exhibition of himself*, expose both you and his commander to the execration and disgrace of an admiring but *truly enraged and disgusted British public*.

As a regimental mess is seldom deficient in those articles which are calculated to gratify a *pampered appetite*, and as poultry, pork, &c. are

in their season considered great delicacies by most people, remember to lay strict injunctions on your deputy or orderly man, that he carefully preserve all the *poultices* used in the hospital, and if the camp sutlers are not disposed to become purchasers, that need give you no concern, as in town you will always find a very ready market for them among the poulters, whose articles are generally notorious for the richness and *mellow*ness of their flavour; and should inflammatory complaints be prevailing, and you should have occasion to frequently *phlebotomize*, that nothing may be wasted, *this* may be preserved, and given to *hogs*, which I understand imparts a *most peculiar richness* to the flesh. In these matters, however, you may sometimes meet with considerable opposition from your nurses or orderly man, who may impertinently consider this as a deprivation of, or infringement on their peculiar perquisites. But *your fiat* on all occasions, you know is positive law, with such sordid and subordinate plebeians; for like *Katterfelto*, you have only to say *quick, presto be gone*, and the business is settled in a trice, and a stop put to all further murmuring or remonstrances.

Among a number of rules which you will find it indispensably necessary to establish, for *your own* individual advantage, as well as the *general* good, let it be your invariable and undeviating maxim *never* to assist with medicines or advise the *wives or children of the soldiers*, for which frequent application will be made, for if

you do not preserve an inviolable inflexibility on this point, you will expose yourself to a liability of being continually pestered with intrusions of this sort ; *ex nihilo, nihil fit*, you receive no pence from them, no weekly stoppages to reward your *liberality*, and therefore you must check so unreasonable a requisition, nipping the evil *in the bud*, by never paying the least attention or regard to the importunities or tears of either *mothers or their children*, to the disadvantage and at the expence of the *national purse*. Indeed you may always be readily provided with a very proper excuse, namely, that your supply of medicines runs shorter than you expected, and you have scarcely enough for the consumption of the regiment ; to which you can commonly resort without the least *violation of truth*; though perhaps the most prompt and decisive remedy of checking so growing an inconvenience, is in the first instance to turn a deaf ear to *all petitioners*, or issue a peremptory and decided negative at once.

In making good your quarters in any large town or city, should you on examining your medicine chest, discover a *superabundant* quantity of bark, opium, ipecacuanha, &c. you can never find yourself at a loss where to meet with persons who will *good naturally* ease you in lessening *your load*, particularly as you can afford, under such circumstances, to undersell, *very considerably*, the regular wholesale drug merchants, and make it well worth the attention of some

needy practitioner in the neighbourhood, whose *conscience* may not be of the most tender and delicate kind, and thus with laudable and *honourable* industry, put a few pounds in your own pocket. By this simple method, you are not only relieved from the inconvenience of carrying about a *ponderous* and *cumbersome* medicine chest, but at the same time you are immediately put upon the study of economy and frugality in your prescriptions, which has also the good effect of preventing the men from being *drenched* with an unnecessary quantity of medicines, to which you will find *them* always readily subscribe.

In hot or damp seasons, and unwholesome situations, where from a superabundance of putrid miasmata, the vapours of stagnant water, or any other cause, pestilential diseases, as dysenteries, typhus, and putrid fevers, and others of the same class, threaten to become prevailing in the camp or garrison, let it be your first and principal care that a proper representation be made of the circumstance to those at the *helm* of the army medical department, and that government immediately supply you with a *liberal* allowance of wine for the *use of the invalids*, which you must insist should form a very *prominent* part of the regimen, as the most perfect antidote against the farther spread of the disorder; but as wine is lately by an elaborate *chemical analysis*, found to possess a two-fold property; namely, an inflammatory as well as antiseptic quality, great circumspection and foresight will

be required, and the greatest care taken, that the soldiers be not exposed too *freely* to the deleterious effects of the former, and so a putrid or *typhus fever* be speedily converted into one of a most violent and *inflammatory* nature.

As there is nothing however good and useful in itself, but is capable of being *abused*, let it be your care in some measure to prevent such a palpable perversion of its intended purpose; and that the soldiers may not be laid under a positive *restraint*, to take more than may really do them good, or than they seem *willing* and *ready* to swallow, you may have an *occasional row* either at your apartments or the public mess, and call in a posse of your brother surgeons and officers to regale themselves on the *superfluous* quantity. This will operate as a very wise expedient in more respects than one; it will prevent the soldiers from being initiated into a habit of tippling and fondness for liquors; keep their bodies *cool*, and obviate the occurrence of acute diseases; and lastly, which is of much more consideration, will guard *you*, who are obliged to mingle *indiscriminately* with the sick, much more successfully against a susceptibility of putrid infection, and thus *your life*, which with the exception of the *chaplain*, is the most *precious and valuable* in the regiment, will be infallibly preserved for the *public good*; for what would become of the poor soldiers' bodies were they by any untoward event or want of caution deprived of *their doctors*; and what, alas! of their precious immortal *souls*, should

their *spiritual guide* in a drunken fit, or by over gorging himself, or some other unlucky accident be suddenly cut off also? But a moderate share of prudence and foresight may probably avert so dire and remediless a *public calamity*, and both spiritual and temporal guides be long preserved, and secured from danger, to the *universal joy* of the whole corps.

The military surgeon with very few exceptions, is in most regiments commonly allowed a guinea a man for inoculation, which is certainly productive of tolerable pickings, where the patients this way are *reasonably numerous*. It will therefore be materially to *your interest* to perform the operation as generally and extensively as you possibly can. For this laudable purpose you should use every argument in rhetoric, you are master of it, to advise and persuade as many soldiers as you can to submit to inoculation. If you possess sufficient weight and influence, let your encomiums resound in praise of *vaccination*, for as it continually happens, *incontrovertibly beyond all doubt*, that the small pox is taken afterwards, you have a very cogent reason, *secretly* lodged in your own breast for so doing, for you may probably have to inoculate a patient with *variolous* matter after the failure of the *vaccine*, and so now and then come in for your fee a *second time*. This will of course be for the *sole* advantage and security of your patient. As your douceur for this operation may be considered tolerably fair, when a considerable number of persons are placed in your hands, let

no barrier or impediment oppose your availing yourself of so *honourable* an emolument, whenever it is in your power. It will be of no kind of consequence to *you* then whether the patient be already sickening with the disease naturally, or whether he has passed through it *before he came* to the regiment; in the first case you perform the operation, and undertake the attendant labour, and surely every reasonable person must consider it a very hard case that you should be choused out of your profit, or that *nature* should supplant you in your perquisite, because she takes a freak into her head, and chooses to be *before hand with you*. As to the latter, if you can produce a little *temporary* inflammation on the arm, which I need not instruct you farther how to effect, that is quite sufficient for *your* purpose, the man has been *inoculated*, and has had the disorder in the most mild and distinct manner; by this pretty honourable and harmless little manœuvre, you acquire *fame* as well as *profit*, every thing has turned out to *your own*, and your commanding officer's *entire satisfaction*, and where is the person who shall dare question your just claim and title to your fee; particularly when it is recollected how superior and successful your mode of treatment has been, and where the loss of *patients* in this most dreadful malady, has been so comparatively trifling and insignificant?

With regard to the performing surgical operations, a very few and cursory observations may answer every purpose. If your personal prac-

tice in this way, has never extended beyond that of operating *on the dead subject*, on no account let *this* intimidate or discourage you, or discover any tendency to timidity or want of resolution. If under such unfavourable circumstances you are really called upon to *amputate a limb*, or any other similar operation, you can most commonly in the vicinity of your station, find out some surgeon of common fair abilities who is capable of acting in your stead, who for a little douceur, and the vanity of displaying his superior skill, will oblige you with his *friendly assistance*. For the purpose of concealing your own incompetence, you can either feign sickness or a want of time from the pressure of business, and confine yourself to your apartment as long as is required. If a pressure of engagements is the avowed cause of your declining to undertake this part of your duty, you can always so judgmatically arrange and contrive matters as to come into the ward puffing and blowing in a violent hurry *just after the operation is performed*. Be sure not to omit finding a few faults with the surgeon, as soon as his *back is turned*, such as his slovenly mode of bandaging, &c. and console your patient by endeavouring to convince him, if possible, that you are truly sorry you could not attend, but that you hope and flatter yourself he will ultimately do *as well* as though you had been the *operator yourself*, expressing your concern at the same time of the lamentable deficiency in *country surgeons*, and endeavouring to

soften his feelings by assuring him, that the *next limb* he may want to be lopped off, shall be effected *more to his satisfaction*, and that he shall enjoy the unspeakable privilege of availing himself of *your* superior abilities.

In the event however of your having advanced a step beyond this, and that you really and truly have extended your professional skill beyond that of merely and simply docking a *dead man* of a leg or arm, and are *bona fide* so emboldened as to venture on the *living subject*, in this case you will of course pursue a very different and opposite line of conduct. This should stimulate you *on every occasion* to have recourse to operations as frequently as possible, in order that you may acquire a steady and expert hand *in using the knife, saws, &c.* with proper ease and graceful facility.

If, for an example, a man should be brought to the infirmary who had received a tolerably decent *wound* on either of the extremities, which by the use of the simple application of the *adhesive strap*, or any other common means, so that the limb might be assuredly *preserved*, as this can by no means display *your wonderful talents* to the best advantage, you will make no hesitation in what choice shall be preferred, but apply without any delay or consultation, the screw tourniquet, and proceed *sans ceremonie* to *whip off the limb*, with as much dexterity and *sang froid* as you possibly can muster: for by this prompt method, you not only stamp your

celebrity as a man of *prodigious skill*, (which *unquestionably* he must be who can cut off a leg,) but you add this advantage to it,—you exempt the patient himself from much pain and inconvenience, and save *yourself* a world of trouble in avoiding a daily attendance on the case. In *every* point of view, if the man be not the most *unreasonable* and sceptical in the world, he must *clearly* see his advantage in falling in and coinciding with *your views* of the subject; for you thus not only give him a passport to spending the remainder of his days *in ease* and retirement in Chelsea quarters, that is, if he possess *sufficient interest* to gain admission; but “*as partial evil tends to general good*,” by this means you exonerate him from the hazard of having *his brains knocked out* by a cannon shot in battle, under the impression of which you will in general find no great difficulty in persuading him that of the *two evils*, it is rather preferable to be *docked of a limb*, than to sacrifice the whole carcase on *the bed of honour*, even though in the last case he should be deprived of that most unspeakable privilege of being cropped of his limbs, by the gentle and most feeling hand of a surgeon, renowned for his *hacking and butchering qualifications*.

Although it must be supposed a very difficult as well as unnecessary task to enumerate *all the minute circumstances* to which the army surgeon's attention may, or ought to be directed in order that his time and talents may be most advan-

tageously and honourably employed, yet I believe I have briefly touched on most points which may appear to claim your *particular regard*. You must of course expect the occurrence of many things which in themselves individually may be considered as far too trifling to advert to, which however taken in the aggregate, *collectively*, are by no means altogether to be passed by with indifference. Under the pleasing conviction, that what has been advanced already, will be found *fully adequate* to the *principal circumstances* connected with your professional duties, and that in less weighty and minute matters, your *own good sense and judgment* will best direct you in steering your course with respectability, honour, and reward, I shall abstain from any farther extension of my remarks, concluding with the words of *Horace*, “Vive vale, si quid novisti rectius istis, candidus imperti; si non, his utere mecum.” “*If a better system's thine, impart it freely, or make use of mine.*”

Lastly, an amelioration of circumstance, with the *mens conscientia recti*, as an enjoyment in the *evening of life*, is an object constantly to be kept in view, and will no doubt in anticipation cause you to rise superior to the difficulties and obstacles you must expect to meet with in your journey through life. If fortune should smile propitiously on your endeavours, and your life should be spared in this *paradisaical* employment, for the *short term of thirty years*, you have it then at your option to retire from the fatigue

of battles and campaigns, on the *handsome allowance* of a guinea per diem, and in the bosom of your family and friends, enjoy a life of perfect peace and tranquillity. Among them you may “*fight all your battles o'er again,*” relate for their amusement and *edification*, your hair-breadth escapes, your perils by sea, your *valiant exploits* in the field; duly appreciating the smiles and rewards now bestowed by your country for *approved* and *persevering merit and industry*, you will hold out these incitements to *glory*, and endeavour to stimulate the youths of your surrounding neighbourhood, to a life of such gallantry and *honourable emolument*, never sparing your praises and encomiums, on that most *pleasurable* and *profitable* of all employments A RESPECTABLE ARMY SURGEON.

Of the Office, Duties and Conduct of the Apothecary.

The duties of an apothecary are in many respects so analogous to, and comprehended under those of the physician, particularly as to his exterior deportment, and necessary accomplishment for pleasing, and getting the good will and opinion of the world, that it will not be expected I should extend my observations, by a tedious repetition of those particular subjects, which have been diffusely discussed, under the duties of the physician. There is however a certain list of offices and services which the apothecary will

necessarily have to perform, *entirely* distinct and independant of every other branch of the healing art, to which I shall now endeavour briefly to call your attention.

There has been a very common vulgar ridiculous notion prevailing among mankind, which appears to have been established from time immemorial, which is, that there is an absolute necessity that a young man designed for the profession of an apothecary, should serve a regular apprenticeship to some respectable member of it, where he might have for a certain number of years the advantage and privilege of witnessing the peculiar mode of conducting an extensive routine of practice.

Under the impression of so *absurd* a principle as this, it is no uncommon case to meet with parents, or guardians entrusted with the future destination of youth, who are easily persuaded to an acquiescence and conformity with this *established* usage ; who in the ultimate prospect of their children or wards becoming *gentlemen apothecaries* (for nothing short of a profession will now a days be heard of) together with the *foolish* notion of their great *profits* in practice, which by some illiterate persons, have been said to be no less than eleven-pence halfpenny *out of the shilling* ; without well weighing the matter maturely, and being altogether deficient in *real* information on the subject, are actually in the frequent habit of giving handsome liberal premiums with youth, from one hundred, even to three or four

hundred guineas, to be articed and bound to drudgery and slavish confinement for four or five years. Now in pursuing such a *ridiculous* series of maxims as these, nothing can be more preposterous or totally *useless*, than this unthinking conduct; for two reasons. First, that it is a large sum of money *sunk*, and absolutely *thrown away*—and secondly, that the youth thus circumstanced, is *losing* a considerable portion of his time, for no one good purpose, except that of being on a level with the most *menial servant*, for his master's *sole* and singular benefit and advantage.

It will very readily be supposed, that, when a *master* can meet with a *flat*, with a gudgeon who will nibble at the alluring bait of a *genteel* profession, well thrown in his way, and whose friends are able and willing to advance a *large premium*, the lad may be properly initiated in *washing phials, cleaning knives, scowering scales or counters*; or to mix a little jalap and rhubarb, he cannot possibly feel any objection, nor I think any reasonable cause for *complaint*; but as *two* good premiums are commonly considered by most people better than *one*, I shall here give you a short hint how you may obtain them, and very honorably and materially fill the measure of your profit.

It is a very common general rule, for a youth previous to his being finally bound by indenture to an apothecary, as I believe it is in most other businesses, to be placed on what is termed *on liking*; that is, he passes a few weeks in a sort

of probationary state, in order to ascertain how far the laws, rules and general occupation of the business may be suitable and congenial with his notions and inclinations; as well as the *mutual* advantage which must arise from the formation of such a connection. During the short period of probation, you must be scrupulously particular in treating your pupil with the utmost kindness and marked attention; and by your courteous mild behaviour, give him *every reason* to understand, that he will have very little else to do, or *amuse* himself with, than to dress himself as a *gentleman*, go out and in when *he pleases*, and enjoy the *good things* daily to be met with at your table.

It will be a circumstance of great *policy* as well as *necessity*, carefully to abstain from every thing which might appear to the young man irksome or degrading to his consequence, particularly if he has been much indulged and accustomed to have his *own way* at home, concealing at the same time *every thing* which has the least semblance or appearance of *work*. In this cautious way you proceed, till he is *bound* and *tied*, and you have pocketed his cash, and then he may discover his mistake whenever he pleases. As soon as convenient, subsequent to the conclusion of this *little ceremony*, you may let him *gradatim*, into a trifling secret or two; which he was before a total stranger to; you may put him to the *large* mortar to fill up his leisure time, and keep him

from *morning till night* to the filthy and *unceasing* drudgery of the shop.

In a very short space of time, such a *changed* and unexpected line of conduct calls forth murmurings from the youth, and remonstrances from his friends, with a manifest reluctance to fulfil the *unsuspected* obligations contained in *his indentures*. In this way you go on for a few months in jarring and wrangling discord, when the lad, worn out with fatigue, and *his spirit* broken with vexation, leaves his situation in disgust, and resolves at all events to quit your service for ever. As *you* cannot be supposed to have any objection to his returning, and *adhering* to his engagements; and as the fault originated with *his aversion* to business, and nothing on *your own part*, no one could possibly be so unreasonable as to expect or think of *your refunding any part* of the premium.

It will however sometimes happen, that when you are *unlucky* enough to meet with a youth of *accommodating* manners and *amiable* disposition, you will not get rid of your incumbrance quite so easily. Should *this method* then not prove sufficiently irksome and disgusting to effect your purpose, and he is so determined to fulfil his contract, as to persevere in *his duty*, in spite of every *insult* and opprobrious epithet you can *heap on him*; a very effectual means of oppressing him, and driving him from your *paternal roof*, will be to take *another apprentice* with a *round fee*, and put over his head, whom you will treat with as

pointed *partiality* and *kindness*, to the no small mortification and disappointment of the *former*, and thus you infallibly and completely *sicken* him from remaining in your house; and by his withdrawing *himself* from *your service*, his friends not only rejoice in an opportunity of releasing him from *your harsh treatment*, but will usually be ready also to *forfeit the premium*, rather than his heart should be totally broken by your savage conduct; and as *you* never *bona fide drove* him from his station *by compulsion*, he has no *legal claim* to his money being refunded; and so by a little *honest manoeuvring*, you may *thus get* an apprentice, with *two* good sums of money instead of one, not a very ineligible thing, in such hard times as the present.

Having offered these few observations on the subject of *apprentices*, I proceed to reremark, that to you young *gentlemen*, who have a thirst to enter the list of modern *Ollapods*, there is a much shorter and more ready way of attaining the object of your desires, with much less expence, less trouble, and less loss of time; which I shall presently submit to your serious attention. It may probably have happened, that you have in the first instance, been placed in some business, or engagement, unworthy your *soaring genius* and high destiny. You may have been allotted to the ignoble and degrading employment of measuring *ribbands*, snipping a yard of tape; exhibiting a cap or bonnet at the carriage door of some lady of *ton*, or parading the streets and squares,

with callico or linens on your back, and your wand of office in your hand, vulgarly *termed a yard*. You may have been stalking behind a counter, weighing figs and tea ; or the still more *ungenteel* amusement of retailing *rusty bacon*, or *delicate Parmeans* in the purlieus of the borough or Tooley-street : still be not discouraged, you shall be presently metamorphosed into as good a *vender of nostrums* as the best.

I will now suppose you for some time experiencing some of these awkward feelings, incident to such *degradation*, panting to exchange them for a *professional* life, in which, not only fortunes are *easily* and *speedily* obtained, but in which you immediately rank under the denomination of a *gentleman* : be assured the discouragements are few, and the difficulties soon overcome ; for in a *few months*, with moderate exertion, you may be as fully and completely qualified to *kill, maim* and *destroy* his majesty's liege subjects, as any Esculapius in the metropolis, with a very insignificant share of *trouble, study* and *expence*.

The grand mystery in which you will be required to become a proficient, will consist *principally* in compounding druggs, posting books, drawing out bills, with the art of making or *altering* figures correctly, phlebotomy and tooth drawing. You will be required also to dispense the prescriptions of physicians, but as *they* frequently cannot *read* them, after they have *written* them, or know *why* they have written them ; it will be quite irrelevant to your pursuits, as well

as an incroachment on your *graver studies*, to perplex your brains with the *obsolete languages* of Greek and Latin.—The *principal* object to be regarded, is to learn *by rote* a few quaint phrases, and familiarize yourself with a little *barbarous Latin*, such as physicians most commonly use; “*quite unconnected with your native language, and learn instead a jangling noise,*” “*of words unknown, a hideous gabble, and a jargon vile;*” and with these very superlative qualities, you are *completely equipped* for the most arduous and dangerous undertaking.

During the term of your probationary pilgrimage, in order that you may cut a more respectable and brilliant figure when you get into practice, it will be absolutely necessary that you apply yourself, and devote as much time as possible to reading and study. The works most adapted for your *improvement*, as well as the cultivation of your *morals*, are, Aristotle's Master-Piece, Culpepper's British Herbal, My Nightgown and Slippers, or Broad Grins, with the Memoirs of Fanny Hill, and a Life of a Woman of the Town ; these will not only blend the *utile* and *dulce*, and ground you in the mysteries and principal fundamentals of your profession, but in cultivating your taste for the *belles lettres*, furnish you with many an elegant *jeu d'esprit*, and supply you with *amusement*, at the same time that you are laying an inexhaustible store of *useful knowledge*. Astruc and Turner on the *venereal disease*, are works which should have a very prominent situation in

your library, and your attention to *this* malady will be of infinite importance. You may from hence, readily learn to *cure yourself*, when involved in so unpleasant a predicament, and your *fellow bloods*, also, when occasion may require ; and if, (as you undoubtedly will) you acquire a notoriety for being *particularly clever* in *this* branch of your profession, you may have a considerable share of practice this way, by which you not only confer a great service on your *friends*, *rob* your *master* of his profit, but infallibly thus furnish yourself, in an honorable manner, with that *ample* supply of pocket money, which your friends, if incumbered with a family, may not be enabled to afford you.

Gallantry in a fine young spirited man, is *always* looked on as a sure mark of a liberal and elevated mind ; but attention to the ladies in a young candidate for *medical* fame, should ever form a very essential object of his attainments. Should it therefore happen that ladies of *easy virtue* should throw themselves designedly in your way ; as your connections *in the way of business* may be usefully extended by *their* means, gratitude as well as inclination should impel you to treat them with kindness and attention : nor need your visits to them be less frequent on account of any deficiency in *your pocket*, as long as *your master's till* can be summoned to your assistance, for you must well know, that it is but fair, if you labour and give up your whole time for *his* advantage, that *you* should go snacks in the emolument. This I

think may be said to be an argument *ad hominem*, and indeed very few masters of common liberality would *reasonably* object to it.

Should one of your master's servants show you any particular attention, as there is no accounting for *female* partiality, it is your most indispensable duty to *return* the favour by every means in your power. It is always necessary to live on very familiar terms with *these* people, as by their assistance you may come in for many a sly nice bit, when your *modesty* or *diffidence* might prompt you to refuse it at your *master's table*, particularly if you should happen to be a *native* of the *sister kingdom*: as “one good turn you know deserves another” take therefore every opportunity in endeavouring to *seduce* your master's servants, which leads to a *double* advantage; not only are you lending *your aid*, to increase the population, which in these *warlike* times are very necessary obligations on every one, but you are furthering your professional acquirements, by becoming an adept in the science of *midwifery*; for they will no doubt give *you* the preference, as the *father* of the children, in attending them at the time of their accouchement. If however this sort of circumstance should happen to occur rather more frequent than is agreeable, or convenient to your pocket, a *drastic* purge or two, or *some other* means, you well know, will remove *all* obstacles, and thus you relieve *yourself* of the burthen, and your *Dulcinea* of *her* disgrace, at one and the same time.

If your master be in extensive business, and in the practice of midwifery, it is more than probable that he may frequently be disturbed *in the night*; now as your quitting your bed in a cold winter's night, is never a most *pleasing* circumstance, or at least may interfere with your health, you may always turn a deaf ear to the loud rapping of the knocker, or violent ringing of the *night bell*; and when questioned by your master on the subject, make a most solemn asseveration that you never heard any thing of the matter from your sleeping so sound; for it can never I think be disputed, that it will be by far a lesser evil of the two, that a person should remain till morning in a *racking fit of the colic*, or that a woman should be left to *deliver herself*, than that *your* rest be idly interrupted upon every trifling occasion, or you be exposed to the *rigors* of a most inclement season.

In the management of your shop you should always endeavour to attach as much as possible the idea of carrying on a *great stroke* of business, and therefore avcid that strict and *vulgar* attention to cleanliness and decency which you will frequently observe to be carried to an unwarrantable *excess* in shops of a *common* description. Instead therefore of keeping your pots and bottles nicely cleaned and wiped, and your mortars and other utensils wholesome and free from dust, let it be your pride and ambition, that every thing be left as *filthy* and *out of order* as you possibly can; for neatness in dispensing medicines is quite a

useless inconveniencie, and what *no one sees, no one can suspect*; therefore it is much more *agreeable* that a patient should swallow a draught with a dozen or two of *dead flies* swimming on it, or a moderate dose of nastiness, than that it should even be hinted, you have little more to fill up your time, than to keep your *shop clean*. Be it also well recollected, that in all shops of large business, the patients *must* of necessity swallow a *decent* quantum of filth, which you will assuredly consider a much less evil, than your master be suspected of *the crime* of not having a moment to spare from his *weighty* and perplexing concerns. Besides this method of proceeding will exonerate you also from a vast deal of unnecessary labour and troubles: and depend on it, the more your counter is strewed with dirty bottles and mortars, or any thing else, "to keep up a beggarly shew," the greater influx of business with the greatest praise and consequence will attach to both you and your master: no one ever saw a shop kept *clean* and *neat*, the measures and funnels *wholesome*, except where there was *nothing to do better*; and to lay under such an imputation, must inevitably be *the ruin* of your master's future prospects.

A counter till you will find a very convenient and necessary *auxiliary*, in rendering your life more agreeable, and your pleasures more attainable. Should you at any time happen to meet with a *little bad silver* in the way of business, and your finances run short, as an *exchange* is

never considered a *robbery*, you can easily convert them into *good ones* at your master's expence. Or should you *borrow*, for your own private use, a little from your master's heaps, you have always a very ready excuse at hand ; such as that you paid money for phials purchased in the shop, or that you *borrowed* a few shillings on an emergency, and from the effects of a treacherous memory, really *forgot* to replace them. This however if cautiously and prudently managed will very rarely happen, as masters in general are not so *paitry*, as to be scrutinizing into such *insignificant trifles* ; and as to your *conscience*, you can always silence any remonstrances from that quarter by a recollection of the old adage, of *every labourer living worthy of his hire*, and as you freely give your labour, to enrich your master, you in return have equal claims on him, to enable you to pursue a little *innocent amusement*. I shall merely add a hint, worthy your attention, which is, that in *borrowing* from the till, you be careful not to meddle with any *marked money*, which might have been laid there for the purpose of putting your *integrity to the test*, lest your master be *vulgar* enough to give the transaction a *misnomer*, bring you to the bar for *robbery*, and you eventually be compelled to exercise your shining parts among the *purtans* and *vestals* of Botany Bay.

It will sometimes happen notwithstanding, that you have a niggardly crusty old codger to deal with, who may not on detection, be inclined to overlook such little youthful *frivolities*, who

unmindful of his own little foibles, would expect from you an absolute state of *perfection*; and really be indiscreet enough, rather to be deprived of your valuable services altogether, than submit to your daily *rapacious plunder*. In such a case as this, you can always be a match for such *mean* and *sordid* conduct, the *phial drawer*, the *opium*, or *bark box*, are generally very convenient resorts: a few phials are easily secreted in your pockets, and convertible into a little ready cash, at any old iron shop; or a little of the foregoing drugs are easily disposed of to some *needy son of Esculapius*, in your neighbourhood. By having recourse to such harmless *experiments* as these, you not only obtain a little present supply, for *immediate use*, but your glass merchant and druggist have a much *larger* account on your master at the year's end, and for your kind efforts in promoting it, it is ten to one, but that in a paroxysm of *gratitude* and *generosity*, they make you a handsome present at Christmas by way of *compensation*, though they knew you would turn away with disdain at the idea of a *bribe*. Your master also will come in for his share of *satisfaction* in having had occasion for so large an *additional* quantity of phials and medicines; as of necessity *he must* have had a *greater demand* for them, in his *increasing business*.

As fortune is however sometimes inclined to play the most *worthy* and *deserving* some *slippery tricks*, you should always be prepared for any misconstruction of your efforts to promote the

the *general good*. If therefore your master should discover your little winning assiduities, and from a contracted notion, be inclined vulgarly to designate that a *robbery*, which you only intended as a *loan*, a very pleasant remedy is always at hand: your master may readily assent to your discharge, and then the *army* and *navy* present a fine field for your *unrivalled* qualifications; if by a manœuvre, or a little ready rhino, you can blind those inquisitive gentlemen called *examiners*, by throwing a little dust in their eyes, your fortune is made; and provided you can *drink*, *swear*, and *debauch* every honest girl you meet with, that will afford an effectual proof of your *moral* character; and as to your *professional abilities*, you have your diploma in your pocket to silence all doubts or cavils on that head: and to question the *efficacy* of that, must be an absolute libel on those *honourable gentlemen* who have deputed *you* to fill the appointment.

Having collected the cream of every thing worth attention in *the shop*, arrived thus far in your *studies*, and laid a foundation on which to raise your superstructure of *future excellence*; as the result of a proper degree of attention to the rules and principles already suggested; the next step to be considered is that of your attending the public lectures and hospitals in London, previous to your commencing practice on your own account. The first consideration then after your arrival in town, will be to provide yourself with a convenient and comfortable lodging, as near the

theatres, (I do not allude to *anatomical theatres*) and other places of *gaiety* and public amusement as possible ; for as it is well understood, that the mind must be occasionally *unbent*, great care should be taken that it does not suffer violence, from the effect of *too intense* application and study ; for it is much more desirable that you should be conveniently situated in *this respect*, than that you should have two or three miles to walk daily to them, merely from the trifling notion of being near the center of the various professors and hospitals.

It is no small encouragement for a young man possessed naturally of a superfluous quantum of *dissidence* and *modesty*, to be informed that the generality of medical professors and lecturers in London, are remarkable for the *lenity* and *indulgence* with which they treat their pupils ; and if you drop them a timely hint, and that accompanied with a good basket of game, they will seldom impose on you too strict and laborious attention to your studies. But although these gentlemen are, as I have described, of most *liberal* and *feeling* minds, yet there is one little necessary part of the ceremony which they can *on no account* dispense with, and that is the *prompt payment* of or *proper security*, for the *trifling sum*, usual at your *entering* at their lectures. This however, you may readily suppose, is only done *pro forma*, not that they imagine your *memory* to be *shallow* and you return home and *forget* the payment ; but that if your memory be treacherous, theirs

may be so also ; and therefore it is a necessary form to be complied with, lest you should happen to leave London unaccompanied with *your certificates* ; which would be one of the most *serious* misfortunes which could happen.

Having then satisfied the scruples of the professors, by cheerfully acquiescing with this established usage, *every thing* will afterwards be entirely accommodated to your wishes. Should you not even attend the lecture room *thrice* during your winter abode in town, so truly sympathetic and *tender-hearted* are these *worthy gentlemen*, that you will very seldom experience even a reprimand, nay you may escape every *enquiry* as to the cause of your absence ; and when the course is finished, will give you *a certificate under their hand and seals*, that you have attended their *several lectures*, with *unremitting and unparalleled diligence*.

It may frequently happen that many of the *lectures* are delivered early in the morning before breakfast ; now to a person of a delicate constitution, *this* may be an insurmountable difficulty. If in the event of your enquiries, you can discover that no others are delivered in the *course of the day* ; it would be certainly much better, that you should omit attending them *altogether*, and return *as wise as you came up*, than run the hazard of impairing *your health*, which to you, must be acknowledged to be of more importance than all the lives in the world beside ; and as you have *paid for your certificate*, and can obtain it without all this

fatigue and inconvenience ; and all you can possibly learn in the lecture or dissecting-room, can be as easily and clearly comprehended, at your leisure, from books and plates, to let your studies ever interfere with your health or *amusements*, would be the most extravagant *height of folly*, which no *gentleman* of spirit and independence could ever think of, without incurring the danger of falling into *ennui* or despair.

If you have spent a few months in town, *no matter how*, that is all which can reasonably be required, and returning with your credentials in your hand, will be sufficient to satisfy the most sceptical of your patients, that you *must* have studied very hard indeed to have obtained such honour; for it is universally and *properly* admitted that it is impossible that a man can remain thus long in *London*, but *he must of consequence* return proportionably *wiser*; and if you can persuade your *friends* as much in the *first instance*, leave them to discover the fallacy of such reasoning, when they come to put your skill to the most unequivocal kind of proof, by displaying your practical experience *on their own bodies*.

In order to astonish the natives, and exhibit the most striking proofs of your diligence and assiduity, during the course of your *studies*, remember to bring down with you a certain number of *anatomical preparations*, to make them gape and stare. You may easily procure some of these from your fellow students, or dissecting-room man, at a very moderate price: such as a set of

injected blood vessels, a skeleton, or such others as you conceive may be best calculated to pass you off as a very great anatomist, and most eminent surgeon. In all public schools of physic and anatomy, you may almost always select some plodding ingenious fellow, who is *weak* enough to make his *improvement* his primary object, in order that he may practise with future credit and respect. *On this very account*, you may generally suspect, that he is not over burthened with the *king's likeness*; therefore for a trifling acknowledgment you may procure from him the fruit of his *superfluous labour*, laugh at his contracted notions, and profit at his expence; for what need is there that you should bother yourself on such a subject, in a *filthy dissecting-room*, when you can get the business done *for* you at so small an expence? Such grovelling notions very ill accord with the notions *you* have formed of a *gentleman*.

It is really astonishing through what different media, men perceive and estimate different objects, and what a contrariety of opinions we find from this source, respecting similar causes. You will observe that many of the pupils, who are *stupid* enough to prefer being considered competent judges at their profession, rather than qualified *to kick up a row*, break lamps and get introduced into the round-house, will frequently take the useless pains of following a lecturer through his course by taking down the *substance* of them in notes or short hand; now this is really

a most laborious and unwarrantable imposition on your time; for why need you take all that trouble, when your text-book furnishes you with *the marrow*, the very *nucleus*, of all the lecturer has been expounding? Such fagging may do well for vulgar plebs, who may have a taste for the *honestum* and *amabile*, but quite inconsistent for a *gentleman*, whose interest and pleasures are to be united in becoming an accomplished *sportsman* and *bon vivant*.

Instead of wasting your time in such fripperies as these, it should seem your leisure hours would be much more advantageously employed in taking a few lessons at the *veterinary college*, and studying the superficial part of Colman's Diseases of *Horses*, Taplin's Farriery, and Blane on the Distemper of *Dogs*. In pursuing this method, a *two-fold* advantage presents itself—In the first place, you thus qualify yourself to become an accomplished judge of *horse-flesh*, by which means you may be able to *jockey* the *squire* and the *parson*, and secondly, from the analogy between *horses and asses* with the diseases of your own species, you are killing two birds with one stone, that is, you are learning how to manage *horses* and *asses* at one and the same time.

I have already had occasion to point your attention to the *extreme liberality and anxious solicitude* which the various professors in the healing art almost always manifest, with respect to the advancement and future welfare of the pupils committed to their charge.—Not only will you

discover in them a most unremitting concern, that you may return to assume your professional avocations *brimfull of wisdom*; but the cultivation and improvement of your *moral*s are equally the objects of their most particular and conscientious concern. Among the other *cardinal virtues*, *temperance* is not the least, which is pressed on your attention, and recommended for your emulous adoration, and for which, from *their own example* as well as precept, you will be furnished with a *glorious model*, every way worthy *your imitation*, should your inclinations not have required previously a *bias* to a contrary line of conduct.

To exemplify the truth and force of this position, take out of *many* others the following example:—It is a very common custom during a course of lectures or at their termination, for a professor to invite alternately a certain number of pupils to dine with him, in order to prove their progress in the *culinary art of dissection*; which by these amiable gentlemen is generally considered a mark of great favour and condescending affability. In complying with this necessary ceremony, which the tyrant *custom* has arbitrarily imposed on him, he at first begins to take his soundings; by endeavouring to find out which of his pupils are destined for *town practice*, and which to *return to the country*, for reasons which I shall hereafter inform you, though no doubt, from the quickness of your apprehension, you will be at no loss to guess.

As *excess* of any kind is, you well know, perfectly inimical to the due performance of the *animal* and *mental* functions, and as *over-gorging* and getting *tolerably nappy*, are always calculated to blunt the *keen edge* of your inclination for *study*, you will seldom find his table covered with a *profusion* or *variety* of dishes, or his sideboard loaded with glasses and *expensive wines*. Keeping his *fatherly* object ever in view, he always judiciously contrives that your dinner may be protracted to a *very late hour*, that your appetite may be blunted, little opportunity afforded, and very little *time* wasted after it, in tippling and carousing. The table-cloth being removed, and two or three elegant toasts being circulated; the first and most prominent of which is, generally, “*success to physic in all its branches*,” the servant announces the introduction of *tea*, but before you have time to swallow a cup of it, the clock strikes, and the professor *gravely* hints that the *lecture hour* is just arrived, which is the *signal* for breaking up; and as *this* is of much more importance than wasting time in sipping tea, and consuming *toast and muffins*, every one immediately rises, and precipitately follows the lecturer, like a brood of chickens at the cluck of a hen, each *anxious* to display his concern for further *libations* at the fountain of study and improvement.

By some of the uninformed and illiberal-minded pupils, this great and noble punctilious attention to *temperance*, has been misconstrued into a tincture of *parsimony*, and these are some-

times silly enough to suspect, that these amiable manœuvres are practised with the *sole* intention of *saving their wine, &c.* You, whose penetration is of a more generous and subtil kind, who can view the professor's conduct, as a sort of *mirror*, from which is reflected what *your own* future behaviour should be, will justly attribute his motives to that *paternal* care, that solicitude for your *health*, that *pureunadulterated disinterestedness*, which characterizes his conduct in *every* transaction. If however your *high spirit* should appear to rise superior to *these* maxims; that too great a degree of *abstemiousness* might incur the danger of depressing *your spirits*, united with the fatigue necessarily induced by *too deep and intense study*; to wound up the climax, you can get an extra bottle or two at an adjacent tavern, reel to the theatre, insult every *unprotected* woman you meet, and complete the evening either in a *brothel*, or at *the finish*, and so be in *proper cue* for the labours of the ensuing day.

As it will be always positively required that great attention should be paid to *externals*, and that your character as a gentleman should be supported by a nice and scrupulous regard to *your dress*; and as it is also of very small consideration at *whose expence* it is procured, provided you can be accommodated to your complete satisfaction; being a *professional gentleman*, you will find very little trouble in persuading your taylor, laundress, &c. to give you an unlimited credit for *your favors*. Should you, however,

from being a little *long-breathed*, find these plebeians troublesome or importunate for payment, you can easily silence their clamours by assuring them, that you are in daily expectation of a remittance from your friends, which as soon as received, *their* demands shall be liquidated with strict punctuality. By this means you put an end to all further solicitations, and to shew your readiness to confer favors, you may thus extend your credit for an *additional* new suit.

In this way you may proceed very quietly, till the *request* is renewed, when to avoid any farther *impertinence* of this sort, you can take up your portmanteau and other moveables, under a pretence of going to spend a few days at the villa of a friend, but order every thing to be fully put in order for your return, which will be very soon. Having thus liberated yourself from all restraint, make the *best of your way home*; and thus taylor, laundress, landlord, and all other such intrusive personages, are *bilked* at once and the same time. As you may not have been required to produce a *testimonial* of the place of your nativity, or if so requested, you can give the very reverse from the absolute *fact*; and as that may be at a very considerable distance from town; it is most probable you may never be seized with your *creditors* again; or should you by a deep finesse be traced to the place of your destination, you can swear point blank, that the dangerous illness of a very near relative called you *suddenly* away; add to which you can plead your very

treacherous memory, and after all be under the disagreeable and mortifying necessity of giving your creditors security for the payment of their demands; which, sooner than you should be sent to *quod, your friends and neighbours* may strain a point to satisfy their *impertinent enquiries*.

There are many other particulars, to which it might be deemed necessary to call your attention; but as *these* before adduced form some of the *principal traits* in the *student's* character, embracing some of the most *peculiar* characteristics, so essentially connected with passing your time both pleasantly and profitably, I must forbear from lengthening *this* part of my subject; circumstances of *less moment*, I must submit and leave, to your own good sense and discretion, to be regulated *pro re nata* according as they severally occur. For the present I take my leave, and under the next head of our discussion, shall meet you, in the more exalted and useful character of a *practical apothecary*; in which I shall offer you a few short rules for your guidance and observance, which if properly pursued and attended to, will, I trust, in practice be found of very essential use and benefit.

The Duties and Offices of the Apothecary in actual Practice.

It has been generally supposed among persons not *intimately acquainted* with the subject, that the qualities and endowments of an apothecary

were to be only obtained by labour, study, and long practice; that a liberal portion of *honor*, and an intimate knowledge of the powers, operations and effects of medicines conjoined therewith, were the *principal* desiderata in constituting a *good apothecary*. As these subjects are very particularly though somewhat quaintly enlarged on by a respectable ancient writer, (Ronodæus,) whose originality, energy and clearness of conception, have been very generally admired; in order that you may be in some measure enabled to form a judgment and opinion, for your own decision, I shall take the liberty of transcribing a few of the most prominent rules: submitting to *your* consideration how far *his* sentiments may appear to coincide and clash with *your own*.

“ *Probity* is no less necessary in a *pharmaceutist* than in a *philosopher*; for in his hands are “ disease and health: death and life, if ignorant “ or malicious he is able essentially to *injure* or “ kill; he should therefore be as *conscientious* as “ *Socrates*.”

“ *Principally* he should be *religious*, free from “ envy and malice, and sound in mind; acquaint- “ ed with *grammar*; neither indigent nor *cove-* “ *tous*; and able and willing to bear fatigue both “ by day and night. The fool is anxious to do “ mischief: and the unskilful man thinks nothing “ *right* but what he does himself; and no one is “ more *unjust*. The *covetous* man benefits no- “ body and is unjust to himself: the poor man is

"easily tempted to poison; that is, *his poverty*
 "but not his will consents."

"Drunkards, buffoons, mimies, chatterers,
 "impostors and mountebanks, who deceive by
 "trifling, fraud, boasting, vain promises, flattery
 "and lies, who thus exhaust the *purses* of
 "the common people, are unworthy the name
 "of *pharmacists*, nothing is more injurious
 "in a state than such *reptiles*."

"Nor must we trust *pretenders*, who assert
 "that gentle medicines may be given at *any*
 "time without danger: for *lettuce* at an *improper*
 "per season and in too large a quantity, is as
 "*fatal* as hemlock: and though *wine* is familiar
 "to the constitution, it is often more destructive
 "than the sword; though a cordial, the *milk* of
 "*old* men, the restorer of the principles of *life*,
 "if given at an *improper* time, it is highly in-
 "jurious."

"The duty of the apothecary is confined there-
 "fore to the *medicine*, to apply it to the purpose
 "of restoring health. That he may execute this
 "office with success, he must select, prepare,
 "and compound the remedy; but before he se-
 "lects it, *he should know what it is.*"

Such is the outline of the plan and qualifications required for an apothecary, according to this esteemed author; but without troubling you with a further transcript of his maxims, I hope in what follows, to be enabled to lay before you a much more satisfactory system; calculated not only to save you much trouble and loss of time,

but to promote the *principal*, nay *only* object an apothecary should have in view, namely, that of obtaining both *fame* and *opulence*, in a much more *efficacious* and speedy manner.

As in states, empires, and kingdoms, there are, at different periods, continually taking place certain changes and modifications of internal polity, according as directed by peculiar circumstances and exigencies ; so in the science of *medicine*, as well as in philosophy, chemistry and many others equally important, very frequent revolutions and changes are brought about, according as the members of them become enlightened, and of more enlarged and liberal ideas. As a proof of this assertion, permit me briefly to direct your attention to the *vast improvement* recently made, in the nomenclature of our *London Medical Pharmacopeia*, which no longer ago than the year 1788, underwent that complete revolution, as was productive of *incalculable advantage*, if not to the *whole* community, at least very considerably so, to the *very meritorious* and indefatigable list of *gentlemen*, called physicians and apothecaries. About twenty-two years had now elapsed, and professional men had reaped a very *tolerable harvest* from their laudable and useful endeavours : when as apothecaries, apprentices, and the shopmen of chemists, had in some good degree become a little familiarized with the *new terms* : and the *profitable effects* of *blundering* and substituting one drug for another had become so *unproductive*, that physicians and

apothecaries scarcely got a patient in a week from such *happy* consequences; in order to recover their loss and declining *privileges*, and restore their *drooping spirits* from such a calamity, the College in its mighty wisdom, thought it adviseable, *merely pro bono publico*, to make *another complete and effectual alteration* in the system of medicine.

The wonderful *sagacity* and comprehensively *capacious minds* of the *gentlemen* of Warwick-lane, soon hit on an expedient to *remedy* this melancholy *disaster*, and have *again* fulminated from their walls, the *mighty dictum*, that this is now to be the *only* one in use, under the *most heavy* of all pains and penalties, *their great displeasure*. There cannot, I think, be a shadow of doubt, but that the most *beneficial* effects will result from this arduous undertaking; for it must be absolutely many years before such a metamorphosis can be *clearly* understood; and from the great similarity in the *present* names of different medicines, of very *opposite* effects, *one* will be continually substituted for *another*: a *rich harvest* will be gathered from the general *confusion*; and physicians who are now pining for want of *a fee*, will find *plenty* of opportunities to exercise their wisdom, in curing, or at least in *cherishing* the maladies brought about *entirely* by their *superior discrimination*.

As then it will appear very evident to you, that systems must be varied and altered, according to the state of things, and in unison with the

vast improvements which are now so rapidly making in every department of the *healing art*; it must be strikingly conspicuous to the most superficial observer, that the mode of instruction and improvement must necessarily vary and be changed in the *same ratio of progression*, “*Get money still, and let virtue follow if she will,*” says a wise and prudent philosopher: so say I, and in the *fullest extent*, should the *heart and voice* of an apothecary be in perfect unison and harmony, who means to *thrive* and be prosperous in his pursuits. But how is this wise maxim to be most advantageously pursued, and kept in view? I will endeavour, in a brief and cursory manner, to supply you with those means, which appear to be most feasible for the attainment of so desirable an end, and which if dexterously managed, and properly attended to, will no doubt be found *fully adequate* for the purpose proposed.

As soon as you have selected, and fixed on a situation, which from the opulence of its neighbours, promises you an ample field and scope for the exercise of your great talents, and have satisfied yourself that the inhabitants adjacent are every way capable of rewarding your labours in a *proper manner*; the first thing I would recommend you, (like the physician) is that you convert yourself into something of the *non descript* kind; that is, to throw off every thing which in *common life* renders a *man* amiable, and invest yourself with some good share of the antics borrowed from your brother *A.S.S.* For

this purpose you may begin to unload your peri-cranium of some of its gross incumbrances, your hair should be cut in the most elegant stile, *a la physicien*, with a neat queue dangling on your shoulders, or a six tier curled peruke; and the whole finely cauliflowered. The cut of your coat should be of that cast, as (*like the parson*) to prove, since you have engaged in so *important* a concern, that *dress* is an object which occupies very little of *your* attention; taking care that it be well powdered round the shoulders; always giving *black* a decided preference to any other colour, as under the sanction of *this* colour and garb, must necessarily be contained the *depths* of skill and wisdom; which will enable you to carry on your depredations with greater ease: it is so in most of the *liberal* professions, and no less so in that of *medicine*. A cane and snuff-box are no less *necessary* appendages, and in feeling the pulse, you have frequent opportunities of displaying on your finger a *brilliant ring*; and with these insignia of office, you may commence operations, and sally forth to your diurnal occupation with superior eclat, so as to *slaughter* your neighbours with a good grace.

I may here just mention a little *trick*, that if well performed, which it may by a little practice, has sometimes a very good and great effect. The circumstance to which I allude, is that of exhibiting your sagacity in examining the state of the pulse, which can never *effectually* and *clearly*

be ascertained unaccompanied with the assistance of your *watch*. As soon therefore as time will permit, you draw out your stop repeater, or for want of that a *dumb watch*, which holding *half concealed* in one hand, the patient's fist in the other, and your visage *properly lengthened*, you produce one or both of the following circumstances; namely, either your patient will be so *terrified* as to suppose you are measuring how long he has to live, and thus his disorder be exasperated and *protracted* to a *comfortable* lengthened period, so that you may fleece him with great facility; or under the imposition of imposture, foolishly suppose that you can *heighten* or *lower* his *pulse*, as the mechanism of a watch or clock is regulated. In either case you reap *advantage* from the farce; in the first you are assisted to pick his pocket; in the second you fix your *fame* on a very permanent and solid basis.

There is no greater requisite for a medical man, than that he should *appear*, at least to the world, to possess a peculiar share of gravity; indeed when the importance of his function as *the opifergue per orbem* is considered, and that no less a trust is committed to him than the *lives* of his employers, the *criminality* of appearing to have feelings *analogous with other men*, will be readily indicated. On the commencing this despicable *farce*, let your risible muscles be as *inflexible* as your *heart*; and take especial care, that a *smile* or a *grin* be never discovered on your countenance, which depend on it would *ruin* your prospects,

were they in *other* respects ever so good: indeed of such consequence do I consider it, that a *drunken parson*, reeling to his pulpit, or a *lawyer* with *a conscience*, would be as likely to thrive, as a *jocular apothecary*. To be grave, pedantic, "full of wise saws and formal utterances," with a general starched and sanctimonious *exterior*, will always supply the place of *solid sense* and *gentlemanly open behaviour*; and should you find yourself deficient in such *trifles* as these, it is better that you should quietly endure the sarcastic scorn of the *wise* and *virtuous*, "*which patient merit of the unworthy takes*," than from the imputation of being a man of easy, ingenuous, frank disposition and manners, be left to waste your time in *indigence*, and unprofitable employment; and shew me *a man of the world*, who would not rather be considered an *errant scoundrel*, than subject himself to such a *calamity*.

I have had already occasion to remark, on the *duties of the physician*, that apothecaries and doctors, (like Quixote and his squire,) should always if possible go hand in hand; by which I mean, that the *one* should assist the *other* in *plundering* the patient. This must ever be productive of mutual benefit, and the physician is never backward to remember *his friend* in prescribing; to whom he is *bona fide* indebted for his patient, who as h warmest panegyrist, has very strongly recommended and introduced him for his very rare and singular *abilities*. As *drenching* a patient with medicines, is the first and principal object

you should have in view, this will be by these means more easily and readily accomplished; for a patient who might feel reluctant to take *two* shillings worth of medicine at *your* recommendation, will have no objection to swallow *twenty* shillings worth, if directed by the physician; whose *fiat* is generally *a law*, from which there is no appeal: and as to your consequence or abilities being likely to suffer a deterioration, by a comparison with the superlative qualifications of the doctor; *that* should never give you the least concern, when you are in the daily habit of profiting thus largely by your *ignorance* and *disgrace*; for which at Christmas your *long bill* will so *amply remunerate* you; beside it would prove a very heavy load on *your conscience*, should you have permitted your patient to *retire* prematurely to the other world, from the *absolute neglect* of liberally *dosing* him with medicines, *as long as he would swallow them.*

I have known some apothecaries of so *weak a share of intellect*, as to feel some little *qualms of conscience*, at the very reverse kind of conduct; nay some have carried their *gross ideas of honesty* so far, as to denominate such *prudent and honorable conduct* with the harsh term of *robbery*; but such have most commonly felt the effect of their contumacy; by being left to starve in indigence and contempt, under the calumnious imputation of having *sent no more medicine than the patient absolutely required*; and indeed no more than he truly merited: for where can be the *impropriety*

of sending a *basket full* daily whilst the disease continues? In the event of his taking but *few* or even *none* of your poisons a *mutual* advantage is hereby obtained; the patient *escapes* the penalty of his having his stomach made a *reservoir* of filthy compounds, whilst *you* from the same source are tolerably paid for your labour, and at last may *repurchase the same again* of the servants for the price of the phials; though indeed by every artifice you can devise, all this and much more, can scarcely be considered by a man of *fine and honorable feelings*, as an adequate compensation for such *fatigue of body* and *solicitude of mind*.

If you have persisted in the *drenching system* so far, as that your patient should be inclined to suppose he may not continue in such *purgatory* much longer; or if you have *understanding sufficient* to discover that you have nearly *physicked him* to the grave; and that *death*, more kind than yourself, is likely soon to *rob* you of *your bread*; be sure to lose no time in recommending the *all powerful aid* of a physician, who with yourself may be enabled to add a little to his tortures; this will relieve *you* from every suspicion of *ignorance or neglect*; and if *death* prove *victorious*, the doctor will come in for the full credit of *dispatching* him; whilst you exonerate yourself from every idea of the *real cause*; (viz.) that of having totally mistaken the treatment of the complaint.

It should always be an invariable rule, which if possible should very rarely be deviated from,

which is that when required, the choice of a physician should always rest with yourself. In this case you will not only have an opportunity of having a thorough understanding with each other, how you may best *plunder* your patient and conceal your inefficiency ; or, *as you inform your patient*, that you may the better be enabled more particularly *to consult on his case*; which in common is a bait, which he will swallow with *great avidity*. There will nothing be found more hostile to your interest and character, than the attendance of a physician to whom you are *utterly unknown*; nor will any thing require more circumspection and cunning on *your part* successfully to oppose; which in defiance of the influence of friends, or any other reason equally cogent, you will endeavour effectually to defeat.

The first thing which a physician to whom you are a total stranger, (or in other words, whose interest you have not promoted by some *gentlemanly expedient*,) will attempt, will be that of *ousting you of your patient*, and placing him in the hands of some needy relative, or *druggist* in his neighbourhood, who will readily allow him his *per centage*, out of the prescriptions sent to his shop. To facilitate his *honourable* and *disinterested* intentions, he will first commence the attack, by picking a hole in *your coat*: either by hinting it as *very extraordinary* the patient should have been *so long ill*; that the medicines could not be *genuine*, or *inefficaciously applied*; or by a nod, hint, or *inuendo* insinuate in indirect terms,

that you must be an *absolute blockhead*.—Now although you may well imagine, “ that *the truth* is not to be spoken at *all times*,” and you are reduced to some speedy invention or lose your patient ; you had better *cry roast*, first open *your artillery in ambuscade* against the doctor as soon as possible, and after his back is turned, find out every possible method of condemning *his* prescriptions. You may also urge his entire ignorance of the *peculiar state* of the patient’s constitution ; and how *dangerous* it will be to his future recovery; if such a course is obstinately persisted in. All this may be done as clandestinely as possible, and the patient, under an idea of the suggestion coming from a *friend*, may be easily bound down to *secrecy*; which may probably succeed to your wishes, and at the same time preserve yourself in a *whole skin*, from the *unmerited* castigation, and doubled *brawny fist* of the doctor, who if possessing the feelings of a *man*, of which you will run *but little hazard*; he might prescribe a dose of *pills* for *you*, which in their *operation* and *effects*, might not prove of the most agreeable nature. You must however at a *pinch* run all risk, for either *you* must triumph, or *he* will ultimately prevail ; by recommending some *peculiar medicine*, which cannot possibly be procured at *any other* place than that to which he directs ; and so you ultimately make a *sneaking bow* in disgrace, to the no small gratification and *profit* of your opponent.

In every situation in which you are called on to display your splendid abilities, the *appearance*

of being extremely learned and wise, will be a very great auxiliary to your success. It will, therefore, be required that in conferring or consulting with the patient or his friends, your reasoning and conversation be *freely interlarded* with high sounding terms, and words as unmeaning and unintelligible to them as to yourself. For promoting so desirable a purpose, take especial care to have your memory well stored with a few of Dr. Pangloss's *cant phrases*, and a collection of scraps of *barbarous Latin*. I do not mean by this to impose a very *heavy task* on you, respecting the secret, as the same *questions*, the same scraps of *Latin* will answer equally well on all *occasions*: at any rate let them be sufficiently *pompous* to astonish your employers, and silence all *inquisitive curiosity*; and if they are so inscrutable and puzzling as to stagger the *parson of the parish*, which is no very *insurmountable* difficulty, you may rely on having completely effected your design.

It is really incalculable what vast importance is attached to keeping a carriage, (I don't mean a wheelbarrow) for a *town practitioner*: it is the *talisman*, the infallible passport to the most elevated ranks in society; no one ever thinking or presuming to canvass or call in question your *abilities* when this is the case; clever and eminent you *must* be, says the world. *Mr. A ——, he keeps a carriage, &c.* I do not however mean to insinuate, that this *desideratum* is in the power of every one to attain, whom *filthy lucre* or inclina-

tion might prompt to desire it; yet perhaps, it would be no unwise or unprofitable *speculation* to give it a trial, *hit or miss*, sink or swim, this is only applicable to a *dasher*. Should such a measure be deemed prudent, at *Tattersal's* you may always suit yourself with a splendid carriage on easy *terms*, with an elegant *coat of arms* emblazoned on the pannels ready at your hands. Or you may perchance get some *ninny* to give you credit for it, and *take it out* in draughts, bolusses, and pills, which will make it come easier still. Away then you dash, and if by *puffing* and *quacking* your plan succeeds, your object is obtained. If any notions of *honour* remain unextinguished in your breast, you will thus be enabled to pay off your debts, and among the most worthy the *coach-maker*; if the reverse, you call your creditors together, make a composition, or get completely *whitewashed*, laugh at their credulity, and commence again in a *dashing style* in some other situation, when your *fame* and *credit* are not so *well* established.

There are, however, many aspiring *blades*, who would not hesitate to climb from the *counter to the chariot*, on any terms, would their finances or *credit* by *any means* afford a reasonable pretext. Now in order that you may be enabled to avail yourself of every possible device, of *rising into fame*, and from thence to *opulence*, you may like *Doctor Longshanks* acquire all the credit of keeping a carriage, by copying the advice given to the physician, in the following manner. You

may contract with a liveryman for the weekly loan of a *glass coach* at so much for the day; and at Monmouth-street you can furnish your coachman, with an old cast off livery; and your *shop drudge* can be also equipped and mounted behind. With a pair of Rosinantes, and a broken down coach, away you sally forth, and in this formidable array, can contrive to call on the whole posse of *your friends*, whether wanted or not, and during the remainder of the week, you find it congenial with your *health* to take more exercise on *foot*; this, with the *multitude* will go down very smoothly, whilst you are imperceptibly fathoming the depth of *their pockets*. If the truth should out, and the trick be discovered, it is you know a *pious fraud*, your wearied limbs required the *occasional* assistance of a *leathern conveniency*, to enable you to expedite the weighty concerns of your business, which from its rapid and accumulated increase, you are almost incapacitated to go through with. Should the attainment of a *pill box* even in this humble way, be above your sphere, and quite incompatible with your pocket, you must do every thing in your power to make a *noise*, and put on the *appearance* of a vast deal of business on *foot*. For this purpose you may start every morning, and parade each street in your district whether called on or not. To render yourself more notorious, you should always pace the ground in a kind of *half run*, or *dog trot*; as though your time was so divided, that you were at a loss to know

where to pay the first visit. In your *left* hand, you may exhibit a long list of *names*, (no matter whose they are,) and in your *right*-a huge sprig of *shillalah*, to thrust in *any one's eyes*, who may be *rude* or *impertinent* enough to impede your progress.

There is a very neat and snug little *secret*, in which it will be of very great profit and inconvenience to initiate your *understrapper*, which will be very indispensably necessary to carry on your practice with facility, and as few hindrances as possible; I mean the art of *substitution* in the compounding of your own, but more particularly the prescriptions of physicians. For this purpose you may instruct him, that a glass of *olive oil*, is as easily *swallowed* as the same quantity of *castor oil*; that a grain or two of *tartarised antimony* will discharge the contents of the stomach, as well or even better than *ipecacuanha wine*; that a few grains of *julap*, is a more speedy and efficacious cathartic than *manna*, tincture of *rhubarb* or *senna*; that a grain or two of *capsicum*, is a much better carminative, than aromatic confection, or spirituous or simple *cinnamon water*; that *extract of gentian* possesses more tonic power, than *extract of camomile*, and a grain of sulphate of zinc more than either; and so on with most other *chemicals* and *galenicals* throughout the *Pharmacopeia*. In adopting this system, you combine the *utile* and *dulce*; you profit yourself, and benefit your patient; for you not only substitute a medicine which will not

cost you a *farthing*, for one which may be worth a *penny*, but you are *always* prepared with the ingredients, let the prescription be as complicated, expensive and *ridiculous* as it may ; your patient suffers no unnecessary delay, for the want of his medicines, nor has cause to complain of your affording him a very *liberal* supply.*

As it is my sincere wish to give you every iota of *rational* information, from which any real *honour* or advantage may be deduced ; yet as it might carry me beyond my prescribed limits, to extend my observations much farther, which would be the case were I to attempt laying *every thing* necessary before you, without leaving much to be regulated by your own practical observation ; yet the following hints I consider by far too valuable to omit, or pass by in a slight cursory manner. You will therefore recollect that there is no class of patients so truly profitable as the nervous hypochondriacal *old man*, or whimsical *old woman*. These are in general *absolute sinecures*, most excellent *milch cows*, who are never at rest without you are plying them with medicines, and *releasing* them of a little of their loose superfluous cash ; nay, I have known several of *this sort* of patients, who would not

* The ingenious Jeremiah Jenkins, alias Doctor Puff, Chirurgo Medicatist, is an exception to this doctrine ; his system is quite opposed to *mine*, in short he is really the only *conscientious* physician, surgeon, apothecary, and chemist in London ; as his numerous advertisements, publications, and *medicine chests* amply and fully testify.

rest in their beds at *night*, if they had not swallowed four or six draughts in the course of the day. Patients of this description, are no sooner relieved of *one* symptom of their numerous complaints, than they discover *another*; and if you will only be candid, and fall in with *their* ideas, flatter their vices, sympathize in their sufferings, and do any *dirty work* they may feel disposed to impose on you, every thing will succeed to *your wishes*; and at Christmas, in addition to your *little bill*, 'tis odds but you are presented with a snug little *douceur*, for your very great attention, humanity, and *good sense*.

Nor indeed should you rest satisfied with confining your prospects to the *present* time; but look forward to something more permanent, solid, and *substantial*, when that inveterate enemy of apothecaries, *Mr. Death*, shall have clouded your prospects, by snatching from your *rapacious gripe*, the victims of your credulity, the dupes of *your imposition*. In suggesting this Idea, I do not mean or wish to allude to that *absurd dogma*, the *mens conscientia recti*; that empty sort of something stupidly designated by some *ignorant moralists*, the approbation and plaudits of an *unsullied conscience*; the dry and uninteresting notion of what is called enjoying in the evening of life, the sweet fruits of an *honourable* and *hard-earned competence*. What I would rather direct *your attention* to is, that if you play your cards with caution, if to an *obsequious humble carriage*, you will simply unite dissimulation, lying, hypocrisy, and

forbearance, you may almost surely rely on some *future* emolument, and you have every reason to flatter yourself with being kindly remembered in the corner of a *will*.

I have sometimes known a medical *gentleman*, under such favourable circumstances, and *honourable* conduct, to be even so kindly *accommodating*, as to draw up a will, and make the *sole* bequest of the property to himself. In the same way may *your services* be called into action ; and thus you may ultimately enjoy perhaps the just *reward* of your labours, till you are enabled to kick the gallipots out of doors, and roll about the world in affluent independence. Should your integrity be at any time placed in so trying a situation, and the surviving *relatives* of the testator, be reduced to *beggary* on this account, their importunities may always be put to silence, by observing that in this *land of freedom*, every one has an undoubted right to dispose of his property as best suits *his* inclination ; besides, it can only be imputed to *their own* misconduct, and negligence towards the deceased, “ *as people make their bed, so they must lie on it;*” and as you have many *deserving* though *poor* relations in your *own* family, who look up to you for support ; and as you have ever thought that *charity ought always to begin at home*, every thing in a moral as well as religious point of view, will bear you out, in acquiring the ability of so doing, by every means consistent with your unsullied *honour*, and inflexible justice. Nay, you may even shew

your *amiable* weakness, your ready forgiveness of injuries, by allowing these very relatives, who have heaped abuse and scurrility on you, on account merely of your *good fortune*, some small weekly stipend, just sufficient to keep them from the *workhouse*, so that your *poor rates* might not thereby become more burthensome to your family.

Lastly, with respect to the *obstetric art*, as I have in addressing myself to physicians, offered my sentiments and advice pretty fully, it would be unnecessary here to enter much at large into the subject. As this delicate, profitable, and pleasing part of the profession, is now growing into daily disrepute; and *six feet men* are likely to be gradually superseded by illiterate *drunken women practitioners*, it will be considered superfluous to add much more on the subject. As a *general* remark, I may however just mention, that your *chief* study should be, to give every thing connected with *this branch* of the profession, as much the air of trick and *mystery* as possible. As *nature* if left to herself will most commonly be *uncivil* enough to effect every purpose, *you* must be careful to interrupt and cross her intentions, by your timely and judicious *interference*, for the absolute want of which you will be frequently left quite *destitute of a job*. A puerperal fever, hysteritis, or some other similar complaint, will be found *tolerably* productive, and therefore every precaution should be exerted, that in addition to your fee for delivery, your

patient may be laid up for a few weeks extraordinary.

As however the practice of midwifery, with all its advantages, is not of the *most profitable* kind, and may incroach considerably on your *valuable time*, which might be much more beneficially employed for the *public good*, there will be no great cause to regret the loss of it, particularly when you recollect the *kind and good effects of officious midwives*.

There are several other subjects appertaining to *your profession*, which I shall here pass by, as being comprehended under the general directions laid down for the conduct of physicians, and equally applicable to the apothecary; I must therefore refer you to that part of the subject, for the desired information, which I trust will be found sufficiently diffuse and explanatory; and as being of the highest importance in the science of medicine, whatever materially and principally concerns the *apothecary*, will there be found fully and copiously treated of.

FINIS.

